

No. 65,700

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

## KITCHEN SINKS AND DRAMA

Juliet Stevenson on family life, acting and idealism, PAGE 19



## BEST FOR BOOKS

Matthew Parris on the man behind Tony Blair's smile  
US: Norman Davies, Samuel Beckett, Clive James, PAGES 38,39



## ENGLAND EXPECTS

Hoddle's no parties, no women regime for players, PAGE 48



## BEST FOR JOBS

HR Director 100K  
 Man. Director 100K  
 Executive 90K  
 Consultant 75K

APPOINTMENTS, 39 PAGES  
SECTION 3

# Labour unlikely to join single currency in 1999

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour leadership is edging towards a decision to stay out of the first wave of a European single currency if it goes ahead in 1999.

The party's most influential figures are privately voicing serious doubts over whether a Labour government coming to power next year would want to make such a momentous move so soon after entering office.

Labour is committed to seeking the country's approval of a single currency either through a referendum or a general election, but opinion is hardening at the top of the party for that test to be delayed

possibly until the general election after next. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, appears to be the only senior figure to believe that the manifesto for the coming election should be so explicit as to give a mandate for entry without a referendum.

Both Tony Blair and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, favour retaining the present ambiguous stance which would mean that an election victory next year could not be seen as authorising entry. And senior Shadow Cabinet figures view the prospect of a referendum campaign in the early months of a Blair government with horror because of the heavy weight of constitutional and other legisla-

tion it is committed to introducing.

Were Mr Blair to want to take Britain into the first wave, he would have to make that plain by autumn when he would have to promise legislation to make the Bank of England independent. But party leaders believe that a new government would not want to take such a controversial decision so soon.

Mr Cook is understood to favour delaying a decision so that Britain can see how the first wave of a single currency develops before coming to a conclusion.

Senior figures believe that Britain's partners would not regard such an approach as anti-European, and that they would under-

stand that after being out of power for 18 years, Labour was just not ready to make up its mind.

Mr Blair is reported by close confidants to have strengthened his view that the coming election will

not be sufficient to test the public's view and that there will have to be a referendum or a delay to a second election. But Mr Brown — perhaps the strongest single currency advocate in the leadership — shares Kenneth Clarke's reservations about a referendum, fearing that a lengthy campaign might unsettle the markets and damage the economy. Colleagues say that he might prefer to test opinion at a second election.

The leadership backed a surprisingly sceptical motion in this week's debate at the Labour conference in Blackpool. It called for job levels to be included in the Maastricht criteria for qualification to a single currency, which some

sceptics Britain would be unable to achieve.

Mr Cook told delegates: "Jobs will be the bottom line by which we judge whether Britain will join a single currency. The single market would work better with a single currency. But Britain will only benefit if we can compete on level terms."

A delay would disappoint some of the big unions. John Monks, the TUC general secretary, told a fringe meeting in Blackpool yesterday: "The choice is to go in the first wave or wait. On balance we say go for it. For once let us be in the first wave."

The Conservatives will be deeply worried about the apparent shift in

the Labour high command. They are split down the middle over whether to rule out a single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament. Conservative sceptics will demand that John Major follows any toughening of the Labour line, irrespective of objections from Mr Clarke.

But the possibility of making a late entry was the very option that Mr Clarke denounced recently as pathetic. His remark set off a new Tory row with the sceptics claiming that the Chancellor had breached the Cabinet agreement of leaving all options open.

Peter Riddell, page 11  
Leading article, page 21

# Multiple birth woman loses all her babies

By ADRIAN LEE AND CAROL MIDGLEY

MANDY ALLWOOD was said to be devastated last night after losing her remaining five babies and the dream of becoming the first woman to give birth to octuplets.

Miss Allwood, whose pregnancy sparked an ethical debate over fertility treatment, selective abortion and chequebook journalism, had been told on Monday that it would be a miracle if any of the babies were to survive.

Three boys had been miscarried that night and yesterday morning a girl was stillborn during an examination that took place under anaesthetic at King's College Hospital, London. Doctors then said that the remaining four foetuses were further up the womb and still moving, but Miss Allwood started to have contractions and at 5.30 pm it was announced that they had all miscarried.

The medical team had earlier stopped treating her with a drug to halt her contractions and she had been given a blood transfusion as a precautionary measure. That stabilised her condition and the doctors were surprised by the how quickly the end came. Her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, the obstetrician Donald Gibb and the gynaecologist Professor Kypros Nicolaides were with her when the last four babies miscarried.

Miss Allwood, who rejected medical advice to abort some of the foetuses to give

others a chance of life, had been in the 19th week of her pregnancy. She had hoped to carry them until the 24th week, when they might have been able to survive.

Max Clifford, the publicist who secured Miss Allwood a much vilified deal with *The News of the World*, described the outcome as a tragedy, but said: "Mandy decided that she didn't want to kill any of her babies. This is the way she wanted to do it. It was her choice. The fourth baby had been pressing on her back causing her discomfort and pain. She thought things were settling down but then this happened."

Anti-abortion campaigners last night expressed sympathy for Miss Allwood, but supported her decision to go ahead with the pregnancy. Professor Jack Scarisbrick, the chairman of Life, said he believed the loss of the babies was less sad than if the "horrible" techniques of selective termination had been used.

"I am very glad that Mandy Allwood said no," he said. "Her children died naturally and she did her best for them. Obviously we are deeply sorry at what has happened. But when people are told exactly what selective pregnancy reduction means, they say 'yuk' and don't want to talk about it any more."

"We say that the end doesn't justify the means. Medicine

should be subject to the sovereign rule of morality."

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said the loss of the babies was sad, but a "healthier" outcome for both Miss Allwood and society than selective termination. Phyllis Bowman, the society's director of political development, said: "There was no easy way out of this. This woman has lost her babies and she will grieve for them for the rest of her life. But she won't have the sense of guilt she would have had if she had agreed to have some of them terminated. She would always have wondered if her decision had been responsible for the deaths of all of her babies."

"We believe it is also healthier for society because we have got too used to the idea that technology overcomes all difficulties. We need to come to a more ethical view."

Roger Gale, the Conservative MP who criticised Miss Allwood for publicising her pregnancy, expressed sympathy but added: "Whether this situation could have been avoided if she had listened to the medical advice rather than the PR advice is something which the doctors will have to be asked. A lot of issues are going to have to be reappraised."

Miss Allwood, however, denied that Miss Allwood's decision to sell her story was in bad taste. Mr Clifford, who visited his client in hospital

yesterday, conceded that she had made enough money to make her financially secure, but said: "She would rather have had all eight babies and no money than be financially secure and have none."

Miss Allwood and Mr Hudson, who live separately in the West Midlands, contacted Mr Clifford almost immediately after her gynaecologist con-

firmed that she was expecting octuplets. A two-week contract with *The News of the World* was signed seven weeks ago and the newspaper featured her story with scan pictures, for which she was reported to have been paid £100,000.

According to the editor Phil Hall, a "friendly" arrangement has been in place since then under which the news-

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

paper paid for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to the London hospital. The newspaper had also secured the exclusive rights she gave birth to eight babies. Miss Allwood has made extra money by appearing in magazines and on television in Europe and America.

Body and Mind, page 18

## Hogg jostled by farmers at dairy show

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS HOGG, the Agriculture Minister, was jostled and jeered by 500 farmers at a dairy show yesterday in a demonstration of anger at the Government's handling of "mad cow" disease.

Police and stewards had to surround Mr Hogg to prevent him from being manhandled as placard-waving farmers surged forward chanting "Hoggy, Hoggy, Hoggy, out, out, out". One witness said: "I do not know what they would have done if they had got hold of him."

Mr Hogg was guest of honour at the South West Dairy Show at the Royal Bath and West Showground at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Some farmers could not get into a packed meeting he held with members of the National Farmers' Union and the County Landowners' Association.

Anthony Gibson, the NFU's

regional director, said: "I could see the mood was turning nasty and I suggested to Mr Hogg that he should go out on the balcony of the auditorium and speak to the farmers outside. But he refused to do so and this made matters worse."

Mr Hogg, looking shaken, was led to the main ring to present cattle prizes as farmers crowded round him. He left the ground 15 minutes later.

Feelings are running high after a decision last week by the European Union, at the Government's request, to cut 10 per cent from the compensation paid to farmers for culled cattle. There is discontent among farmers over the high number of old cattle still awaiting slaughter under the cull scheme set up after fears emerged that the human disease BSE was linked to BSE.

Mr Hogg was guest of honour at the South West Dairy Show at the Royal Bath and West Showground at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Some farmers could not get into a packed meeting he held with members of the National Farmers' Union and the County Landowners' Association.

Anthony Gibson, the NFU's

## Nearly half of fish caught 'breaks law'

BRITISH fishermen are breaking EU conservation rules on a huge scale, according to a report by a respected industry pressure group. (Michael Hornsby writes.)

The study estimates that 40 per cent of the catch landed by Scottish trawlers is in breach of limits on the type, quantity and size of fish that can legally be brought ashore. It says that illicit catches are

landed in remote parts. In major ports they are loaded on to lorries at night.

The widespread cheating is alleged in a report by the Scottish Council Development and Industry, a body embracing industrialists, trade unionists and politicians that seeks to promote Scotland's prosperity. It blames "absurd" EU regulations rather than the fishermen.

It seems that regional accents were mostly old Labour.

Lady Castle, the next chin up and eyes flashing, then she would study her notes.

She listened impassively as a series of speakers praised her. "Barbara Castle's done brilliant," said Bolsover delegate Elton Watts, in broad Derbyshire. The Cockney tones of Dave Lawrence, from Poplar and Canning Town, were raised in her cause. And there was no mistaking the

obligatory dark two-piece suit and bright silk tie, began his speech in a neutral BBC voice, you knew he would be supporting new Labour. From the platform, Ms Harman, in a pink suit squared with those graph-paper lines that warn enemies against messing with her statistics, watched with

carefully, then descended ever so carefully, as if a little in love.

Waiting below to offer her arm was her adversary, Peter Mandelson. Old pro meets young pro. Wags joked that she'd better watch out in case his embrace concealed a knife. But I reflected that were it not for the cameras, Mandelson would have been well advised to guard his groin from an elderly, but still sharp, knee.

Sots accent of Jean Bishop, from Argyle and Bute, urging the Castle line: "Conference, I appeal to you're Labour people! You believe in Labour values!"

It seemed that regional accents were mostly old Labour.

When Matt Carter, a prospective candidate in the

platform, Ms Harman, in a pink suit squared with those graph-paper lines that warn enemies against messing with her statistics, watched with

carefully, then descended ever so carefully, as if a little in love.

Waiting below to offer her arm was her adversary, Peter Mandelson. Old pro meets young pro. Wags joked that she'd better watch out in case his embrace concealed a knife. But I reflected that were it not for the cameras, Mandelson would have been well advised to guard his groin from an elderly, but still sharp, knee.

It seemed that regional accents were mostly old Labour.

When Matt Carter, a prospective candidate in the

## Troubled spy plane should now land in one piece

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH defence company explained yesterday why the unmanned spy plane it has just sold to the Ministry of Defence for £250 million still suffers breakages on landing.

The Phoenix unmanned air vehicle that will spy on enemy battlefields from about 8,000ft has had a history of disastrous crash landings during the 11 years of development. This week the Ministry announced it would buy the Phoenix from

GEC-Marconi Avionics because the company appeared to have solved the problem by fitting an airbag to absorb the impact of landing.

Phoenix, with a large pod underneath fitted with thermal imaging systems, has to flip over on its back before landing by parachute. Saul Lanyado, managing director of GEC-Marconi Avionics, said that the fin tips and on some occasions, the tail tips,

would still break off on landing. But they could be replaced cheaply, he said.

The combination of airbag

and parachute for Phoenix had been made necessary, Dr Lanyado said, because of the Ministry's insistence that a

remotely-piloted vehicle

should be able to land on any surface and without any help from ground staff. There was to be no runway or ground netting to catch the aircraft.

The company, which now hopes to bring Phoenix into service by 1998, nine years late, originally designed the aircraft with a collapsible foam "hump". But the G-force of the landing still caused "unacceptable" damage.

Now, an airbag starts to come out as Phoenix falls to

the ground in a nose-down before flipping over.

Brian Tucker, managing director of GEC-Marconi Aerospace Systems which is now managing the Phoenix project, said that after millions of pounds of extra funding had been provided by the company, all the remaining problems had been resolved.

Phoenix takes off by being catapulted off the back of a 14-tonne lorry and its flight is monitored by a three-man ground crew.

## Individuals to get Lottery awards

More than 3,000 people will share £20 million in National Lottery grants after the Millennium Commission announced it will be making awards to individuals. Awards from £1,000 to £10,000 will be given to people who work on projects in their local community. Six charities have been chosen to be "award partners" with the commission to decide where to allocate the first block of grants totalling £8.6 million: Help the Aged, Raleigh International Trust, Farmington Institute for Christian Studies, Royal Society for the Advancement of Science, Technquest and Earthwatch Europe.

### Terrorist suspect buried today

The suspected IRA terrorist, Diarmuid O'Neill, who was shot dead by police in London ten days, will be buried today in west Cork near his parents' retirement home in Timoleague. Senior IRA members are expected to attend and Irish police say they have contingency plans to deal with disturbances.

### Mortars found at IRA bunker

Irish police uncovered 21 mortar tubes in an underground IRA bunker in Co Louth close to the border with Northern Ireland. Eight mortar frames were also found. In New York police seized a cache of guns they believe may have been destined for the IRA. Two Irish Americans face charges.

### Britain host to Commonwealth

Britain is to host the next Commonwealth heads of government meeting for the first time in 20 years, it was confirmed yesterday. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said the Government was "delighted" that the meeting would be in Edinburgh next year, from October 24 to 27.

### Boy admits killing tramp in park

A boy aged 14 admitted killing a tramp by setting fire to him as he lay on a park bench in Eastleigh, Hampshire. The boy, appearing at Winchester Crown Court, denied murdering Alan Whittle, 50, but admitted manslaughter. He was remanded to secure accommodation for a psychiatric report.

### Father denies mass murder

Khalid Mahmood, 38, father of six who is alleged to have killed his three daughters with a knife in Bristol and then travelled to Birmingham to kill his estranged wife, Imtiaz Begum, 37, and their son, 2, pleads not guilty to murder but admits manslaughter because of diminished responsibility.

### Rare snails saved with porridge

A species of rare snails has been saved from extinction with the help of porridge. Scientists at Nottingham University had earlier tried several foods on the tropical parnula snails without success. Numbers of the snails, which are fed twice daily on the oats, are now increasing rapidly.

### Eel slaughter investigation

The annual slaughter of sandeels in Scottish waters by Danish fishermen, which it is claimed results in the destruction of fishing stocks, is to be investigated by marine experts from the Natural Environment Research Council based at St Andrews University, among others.

### Champion's baby arrived on cue

The world champion snooker player Stephen Hendry became a father yesterday when his wife Mandy gave birth to a boy. Blaine Thomas was born at an unnamed Scottish hospital at 9.15am, weighing 6lb 9oz. The couple, who live in Gleneagles, married in June last year.

## Dixons

### 2 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL<sup>†</sup>

WORTH £35.98

PHILIPS

### FIZZ MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 75 minutes talktime/45 hours standby time.
- 99 name and number memory.
- Call timer facility.
- PIN number security.

Dixons Deal  
£9.99\*

## Dixons

There's a great deal going on



- Per-second billing.
- Call cost from 5p per minute (peak), 12p per minute (off-peak) on Regular Caller Plus.
- Call waiting and divert.
- Coverage across 42 countries worldwide.
- 95% UK population coverage.
- Digital quality and security.
- Connection just £35.25.

Panasonic

G350 MOBILE PHONE

Up to 60 minutes talktime up to 12 hours standby time.

50 name and number memory.

Call display - see who is calling before you answer.

The combination of airbag

and parachute for Phoenix had been made necessary, Dr Lanyado said, because of the Ministry's insistence that a

remotely-piloted vehicle

should be able to land on any

surface and without any help

from ground staff. There was

to be no runway or ground

netting to catch the aircraft.

The company, which now

hopes to bring Phoenix into

service by 1998, nine years

late, originally designed the

aircraft with a collapsible

foam "hump". But the G-

force of the landing still

caused "unacceptable" damage.

Now, an airbag starts to

come out as Phoenix falls to

the ground in a nose-down

before flipping over.

Brian Tucker, managing

director of GEC-Marconi

Aerospace Systems which is

now managing the Phoenix

project, said that after

millions of pounds of extra

funding had been provided by the company, all the remain-

ing problems had been

resolved.

Phoenix takes off by

being catapulted off the

back of a 14-tonne lorry

and its flight is moni-

tored by a three-man

ground crew.

It seemed that regional

accents were mostly old

Labour.

When Matt Carter, a

prospective candidate in the

platform, Ms Harman, in a

pink suit squared with those

graph-paper lines that warn

enemies against messin-

g with her statistics, watched with

carefully, then descended ever so carefully, as if a little in love.

Waiting below to offer her

arm was her adversary,

Peter Mandelson. Old

pro meets young pro. Wags

joked that she'd better watch out in case his embrace concealed a

knife. But I reflected that were it not for the cameras, Mandelson would have been well advised to guard his

groin from an elderly, but still

sharp, knee.

It seemed that regional

accents were mostly old

Labour.

When Matt Carter, a

prospective candidate in the

platform, Ms Harman, in a

pink suit squared with those

graph-paper lines that warn

enemies against messin-

g with her statistics, watched with

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

Lorry driver gave away French student's champagne as gifts, court is told

# Killer 'drove for 10 days with girl's body in his cab'

By RICHARD DUKE

A LORRY driver travelled the country for ten days with the body of the French student Celine Figard in the back of his cab after she was raped, beaten and strangled, a court was told yesterday.

David Farrer, QC, said that Stuart Morgan, 37, had murdered Mlle Figard, 19, as an act of "uncalculated and uninvestigated wickedness". He told Worcester Crown Court that Mlle Figard, a "bright and retiring girl", was murdered after she accepted a lift from Mr Morgan at Cheevey service station beside the M4 near Newbury, Berkshire. She was making her way to Hampshire to spend Christmas with a relative.



Morgan admitted giving Mlle Figard a lift and having intercourse with her but denies killing her

mas with a relative. Mr Farrer said that for ten days Mr Morgan had concealed her body on the lower bunk inside the cab of his Mercedes lorry. It was parked outside his home in Poole while he celebrated Christmas with his wife and young son.

Mlle Figard's naked body was dumped in a lay-by near Worcester on December 28 or 29, allegedly at about the time Mr Morgan, a self-employed driver, travelled from the South Coast to deliver goods in Shropshire.

Mr Farrer told the jury that there was an overwhelming case of circumstantial evidence against Mr Morgan that would lead them to the

conclusion that he alone was responsible for killing Mlle Figard, an accountancy student from the Haute-Saone region.

After his arrest, police carried out DNA tests in his cab where three spots matched Mlle Figard's blood group. A search of his garage uncovered a blood-stained mattress from the cab. "It was soaked with blood and still damp two months later," Mr Farrer said. Some of her possessions were also found at the house.

Items of the student's clothing were recovered near a warehouse at High Ercall, near Telford, Shropshire. Mr Morgan's destination late last December along a route that would have passed close to the lay-by on the A449 road where her body was found.

It was also alleged that Mr Morgan tried to tamper with tachograph records of his lorry to conceal his detour to the lay-by. Mr Farrer said that at one stage Mr Morgan had probably planned to dismember and bury his victim. On a trip to Cornwall he bought a spade, hicksaw, and hand axe.

Mr Farrer told the jury: "We say that he raped her and killed her in the cab of his lorry in the late afternoon or early evening of December 19

1995."

Mr Farrer told the jury: "We say that he raped her and killed her in the cab of his lorry in the late afternoon or early evening of December 19

1995."

He said that he had made three

set-ups in the cab of the lorry with a friend through the Channel Tunnel. She wanted to visit Britain to improve her English. She had worked the driving seat of his lorry for nearly ten days over the whole Christmas period. During that time, he drove considerable distances with the body lying behind him. He showed a very cool head indeed."

As the trial began yesterday

Mlle Figard's parents, Bernard and Martine, were in court. They have been provided with headphones and a translator to explain proceedings.

Mr Farrer said Mlle Figard set off from her home on December 18. Rather than have her hitch-hike, her par-

ents had arranged a lift with a friend through the Channel Tunnel. She wanted to visit Britain to improve her English. She had worked the driving seat of his lorry for nearly ten days over the whole Christmas period. During that time, he drove considerable distances with the body lying behind him. He showed a very cool head indeed."

As the trial began yesterday

Mlle Figard's parents, Bernard and Martine, were in court. They have been provided with headphones and a translator to explain proceedings.

Mr Farrer said Mlle Figard set off from her home on December 18. Rather than have her hitch-hike, her par-

suspect was bearded. Mr Farrer said Mr Morgan accepted that he took Mlle Figard on the final leg of her journey from Cheevey. He admitted he had sexual intercourse with her but claimed it was with her consent. He maintained there was no question of rape and that after a brief sexual encounter he had dropped her off safe and sound early on the evening of December 19. That was shortly before he arrived with his lorry to unload at the Southampton container terminal.

That was the last time that anybody saw Celine alive."

After widespread publicity about the student's disappearance, Mr Morgan shaved off his beard, it was alleged. A police description said the

suspect was bearded. Mr

Farrer said Mr Morgan accepted that he took Mlle Figard on the final leg of her journey from Cheevey. He admitted he had sexual intercourse with her but claimed it was with her consent. He maintained there was no question of rape and that after a brief sexual encounter he had dropped her off safe and sound early on the evening of December 19. That was shortly before he arrived with his lorry to unload at the Southampton container terminal.

That was the last time that anybody saw Celine alive."

After widespread publicity about the student's disappearance, Mr Morgan shaved off his beard, it was alleged. A police description said the

## Princess 'pledged to destroy husband'

By ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales told her husband during their lengthy wrangle over divorce that she would do her utmost to make sure that he never became king, a new royal biography claims.

In a tantalising glimpse into the Princess's state of mind after her separation from the Prince of Wales in 1992, the author Ben Pimlott says that according to a friend of the Prince's, she told him: "You will never be king. I shall destroy you." A footnote merely ascribes the quote to a "confidential interview". The words appear in Professor Pimlott's biography of the Queen, published today to mark her seventieth birthday.

Professor Pimlott, a left-of-centre historian of the Labour Party, teaches politics and contemporary history at Birkbeck College, London. He has published studies of Hugh Dalton, for which he won the Whitbread Prize, and Harold Wilson.

His disclosure comes in a passage on the Princess's face-to-face interview for *Panorama* last November, watched by a record British television audience of 23 million. During the interview, the Princess gave a hint of her attitude towards her husband when she said that he might not be a suitable candidate to succeed to the throne, and that Prince William could well be the more desirable alternative.

Professor Pimlott is scathing about the Princess's television performance. It was, the author suggests, not up to the BBC's usual standards. "Delighted with its prize, the BBC abandoned any pretence at objectivity, restricting the interview to the gentlest of questions, and retaking shots indefatigably to produce a fluent, and undeniably engrossing, package."

There is no evidence that the Princess has succeeded in her destructive intent. The divorce, finalised in August after 3½ years of negotiations, has cost the Prince a reported £15 million, but he continues his public life as though nothing has happened.

*The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II*, by Ben Pimlott (HarperCollins: £20)



Bernard and Martine Figard, parents of the murdered student, arriving at Worcester Crown Court yesterday

## Funfair boy killed through gross neglect, inquest jury decides

By TIM JONES

A BOY who died on a fairground ride was unlawfully killed through gross neglect, an inquest jury said yesterday. Tim Morgan, 9, suffered head wounds after a water-chute carriage smashed into a metal arch carrying fairy lights.

The 60-year-old ride had been given a safety certificate two days previously. The coroner, Philip Walters, criticised the owner of Coney Beach funfair at Portcawl, Mid-Glamorgan, for his "mishmash"

maintenance of the 40p attraction. The owner, Par Evans, 73, has already been fined £7,500 with £3,500 costs after prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr Justice Curtis said then at Cardiff Crown Court: "Some might think that as there has been a death, a more severe penalty should be imposed. A manslaughter charge was considered and rejected by the prosecuting authority."

Yesterday Mr Walters said of maintenance at the funfair: "There were no written instructions on a

daily basis. It was a situation which was a mishmash. There was no system of proper work procedures when this tragedy occurred."

The inquest jury was told that an independent inspector, Richard Cousins, had failed to notice that two bolts meant to hold the arch in place were missing because holes had not been drilled. Mr Cousins, 61, who works for LEA Inspection Services of Swansea, said he believed that he had complied with government regulations.

He said that he had made three

inspections of the ride in the five weeks before the accident and had walked the length of the chute. He knew the arches were safe because he could not move them. "I shook them to see if they were loose. I thought that was enough." On the ride's safety certificate, Mr Cousins wrote: "It is in a condition where it will not present a danger to the public."

Michael Fahey, a Health and Safety Executive inspector, told the inquest that an electrician who fitted lights to the arch should have been

aware that there were no bolt holes.

After the inquest, Tim's father Christopher, who was badly injured in the accident on Good Friday, 1994, said: "It has taken a long time to get this verdict. We will never get over Tim's death, but someone was responsible for it."

He had taken Tim and his brother David, 16, who was also injured, to the funfair on the first day it opened for the summer season. Mr Morgan is making a £500,000 compensation claim against Mr Evans.

John Bell, representing the Morgan family, said that he would be taking the case back to the Crown Prosecution Service. "The verdict clearly shows that charges should be brought on the grounds of manslaughter." There had to be much more thoroughness in inspecting such rides, he added.

The CPS said: "A senior lawyer reviewed the evidence presented to us and the police were advised of our view concerning the strength of the case. We cannot comment on the inquest's findings until we examine them more closely."



Barrington House: the Victorian wings of the 18th-century building are on the far right, hidden by tarpaulin

## Fine estate 'needs demolition job'

By IAN MURRAY

THE owner of one of the finest country homes in Britain sought permission to knock part of it down yesterday so that he can continue to live on the estate his family has run for more than 250 years.

As owner of Barrington Park, deep in the Cotswolds, Charles Wingfield, 72, has inherited 5,000 acres of woods, farms and parklands first obtained by his ancestor Lord Talbot, the Whig politician, in 1774. He is one of the last land owners who can claim to own a village.

He regards the 250 people who live as tenants in Great Barrington as members of his own family and his attempt to pull down part of his Grade I-listed home as an essential part of his strategy to keep the family together.

Their future is threatened by the cost of repairing and

maintaining the two large Victorian wings built on to the neo-Palladian building designed by William Kent in 1737. According to his counsel, Keith Lindblom, QC, the cost of renovating the "unworthy extensions" of 1873 with their "confusion of incompatible ornaments" will be in excess of £5 million.

He told a public inquiry that opened in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, yesterday that without the Victorian additions the home would be restored as "one of the finest examples of early 18th-century architecture in England".

Even more important, he said, was "the traditional and essential relationship between the house and the families of the estate and the incontestable desirability of those relationships being maintained."

If £5 million had to be

spent on repairing and



Wingfield: would be letting people down

privilege of running a great

family estate. I could not let the people here down. I could never open it to the public either because I don't want them wandering around my home."

Robin Mills is chairman of the Barrington Parish Council, which has unanimously backed the demolition plan. The local people are passionately in favour, he said. "The family is held in very great respect for all they do."

The Cotswold District Council voted by 19 to 18 on Monday to reject the application to tear down the Victorian wings. The public inquiry will continue until Christmas.

Richard Holder, of the Victorian Society which is opposing the plan, said the wings were excellent examples of the work of Macvicar Anderson, architect of the Junior Carlton Club. "They show how good Victorian architecture can be in keeping with older styles," he said.

He found to repair rooms that were useless there would be

that much less income available to maintain the estate.

Far better to pull down the "anachronistic extension" built to house a large family that no longer exists.

Mr Wingfield said: "I was charged with the very great

privilege of running a great

family estate. I could not let the people here down. I could never open it to the public either because I don't want them wandering around my home."

Robin Mills is chairman of the Barrington Parish Council, which has unanimously backed the demolition plan. The local people are passionately in favour, he said. "The family is held in very great respect for all they do."

The Cotswold District Council voted by 19 to 18 on Monday to reject the application to tear down the Victorian wings. The public inquiry will continue until Christmas.

Richard Holder, of the Victorian Society which is opposing the plan, said the wings were excellent examples of the work of Macvicar Anderson, architect of the Junior Carlton Club. "They show how good Victorian architecture can be in keeping with older styles," he said.

He found to repair rooms that were useless there would be

that much less income available to maintain the estate.

Far better to pull down the "anachronistic extension" built to house a large family that no longer exists.

Mr Wingfield said: "I was charged with the very great

privilege of running a great

family estate. I could not let the people here down. I could never open it to the public either because I don't want them wandering around my home."

Robin Mills is chairman of the Barrington Parish Council, which has unanimously backed the demolition plan. The local people are passionately in favour, he said. "The family is held in very great respect for all they do."

The Cotswold District Council voted by 19 to 18 on Monday to reject the application to tear down the Victorian wings. The public inquiry will continue until Christmas.

Richard Holder, of the Victorian Society which is opposing the plan, said the wings were excellent examples of the work of Macvicar Anderson, architect of the Junior Carlton Club. "They show how good Victorian architecture can be in keeping with older styles," he said.

He found to repair rooms that were useless there would be

that much less income available to maintain the estate.

Far better to pull down the "anachronistic extension" built to house a large family that no longer exists.

Mr Wingfield said: "I was charged with the very great

privilege of running a great

family estate. I could not let the people here down. I could never open it to the public either because I don't want them wandering around my home."

Robin Mills is chairman of the Barrington Parish Council, which has unanimously backed the demolition plan. The local people are passionately in favour, he said. "The family is held in very great respect for all they do."

The Cotswold District Council voted by 19 to 18 on Monday to reject the application to tear down the Victorian wings. The public inquiry will continue until Christmas.

Richard Holder, of the Victorian Society which is opposing the plan, said the wings were excellent examples of the work of Macvicar Anderson, architect of the Junior Carlton Club. "They show how good Victorian architecture can be in keeping with older styles," he said.

He found to repair rooms that were useless there would be

that much less income available to maintain the estate.

Far better to pull down the "anachronistic extension" built to house a large family that no longer exists.

Mr Wingfield said: "I was charged with the very great

privilege of running a great

family estate. I could not let the people here down. I could never open it to the public either because I don't want them wandering around my home."

Robin Mills is chairman of the Barrington Parish Council, which has unanimously backed the demolition plan. The local people are passionately in favour, he said. "The family is held in very great respect for all they do."

The Cotswold District Council voted by 19 to 18 on Monday to reject the application to tear down the Victorian wings. The public inquiry will continue until Christmas.

Richard Holder, of the Victorian Society which is opposing the plan, said the wings were



**Report finds evidence of psychological, rather than viral cause of chronic fatigue**

# Royal colleges say there's no such thing as yuppie flu

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PATIENTS with extreme fatigue have been misled by claims that they are suffering from so-called yuppie flu, three royal medical colleges said yesterday.

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) is a "very inappropriate term" to describe a real condition, Dr Robert Kendell, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said.

Those who use it are of the unshakeable conviction that the illness is not psychological, and that a virus is responsible," he said. "It is wrong and meaningless to make this distinction between bodily and psychological illnesses.

The report, published by the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Psychiatrists and General Practitioners and undertaken at the request of the Chief Medical Officer, says that the condition should properly be called Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. It is common, affecting 1 to 2.5 per cent of the population, and causes serious suffering and disability.

But the use of the term ME, and the emphasis on finding a physical cause such as a virus, has not been helpful. The term ME "erroneously endorses the existence of a specific pathological process for which there is no evidence," the report says.

ME literally means inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, which are not found in sufferers from extreme fatigue. "We may have tried too hard to ascribe the condition to a specific cause," said Sir Leslie Turnberg, President of the Royal College of Physicians. "If we can't find a cause, we still have patients who need treatment."

The term yuppie flu was equally misleading, said Dr Simon Wessely, a psychiatrist from King's College School of Medicine in London and a member of the working group which produced the report. "It's a problem that affects all

classes," he said. "Some patients have very fixed beliefs about what's wrong with them and that is unhelpful."

The report cites more than 20 studies which have found that up to three quarters of chronic fatigue sufferers have some form of psychiatric disorder, including depression and anxiety. In many cases anti-depressants prescribed by GPs can help. In some cases the condition may be triggered by viral disease, such as glandular fever, but there is no evidence that persistent viral infection underlies the disease.

The report suggests a clear definition for the condition: six months of severe disabling fatigue that is made worse by physical or mental exertion and for which no adequate medical explanation can be found.

The best approach to treatment consists of graded exercise programmes — in which the patient is set gradually increasing targets — which may be combined with cognitive behaviour therapy. This involves the patient discussing the condition with a therapist and being helped to understand it better. Patients are helped to combat depression and anxiety and examine whether their underlying thoughts or assumptions might be contributing to their disability.

Except for cases in which anti-depressants may help, drugs are seldom useful and nor are changes in diet, the report says. Prolonged bed rest or, at the other extreme, excessive exercise were equally unhelpful.

Dr Kendell told a news conference at the Royal College of Physicians in London that all those involved in the problem must realise that the distinction between the physical and psychological was illusory. The syndrome lay in a "grey area" between the

physical and psychological poles, leading to "controversy and passions" inside and outside the medical world. He admitted that some doctors could be dismissive of chronic fatigue, telling patients to "pull themselves together" and failing to recognise a genuine problem.

Four charities representing sufferers, including the ME Association and Action for ME, responded with a statement saying that the report was biased towards psychiatric factors and that its estimate of the number of sufferers was much too high.

"While we are disappointed by the general thrust of the report, we do wholeheartedly agree with the unequivocal acknowledgment that this is a genuine and seriously debilitating condition which is poorly understood and poorly managed by many doctors," the statement said.

The best approach to treatment consists of graded exercise programmes — in which the patient is set gradually increasing targets — which may be combined with cognitive behaviour therapy. This involves the patient discussing the condition with a therapist and being helped to understand it better. Patients are helped to combat depression and anxiety and examine whether their underlying thoughts or assumptions might be contributing to their disability.

Except for cases in which anti-depressants may help, drugs are seldom useful and nor are changes in diet, the report says. Prolonged bed rest or, at the other extreme, excessive exercise were equally unhelpful.

Dr Kendell told a news conference at the Royal College of Physicians in London that all those involved in the problem must realise that the distinction between the physical and psychological was illusory. The syndrome lay in a "grey area" between the



Dr Stuttaford and Ms Rantzen each found something in the report to support their conflicting views on ME

## Antagonists resume war of words

By JOANNA BALE

THE report led to a resumption of the war of words between Esther Rantzen, the broadcaster, and Dr Thomas Stuttaford, the Times columnist. Miss Rantzen was criticised recently by Dr Stuttaford, who said he was "set up" when boozed and kissed by an invited audience on BBC1's *Rantzen Report*.

Dr Stuttaford said that the report had totally supported his view that psychological factors, including depression, can be significant. Ms Rantzen said,

however, that "at no stage does the report ever say that it is a kind of depression". Wrong, says Dr Stuttaford: "What it actually says is that over half the sufferers have signs of depression."

Miss Rantzen, whose daughter Emily, 18, has ME, also says that the report supports a viral cause for the disease. "The report does say that it is directly related to the virus which causes glandular fever, which was how my daughter developed it," she said.

Wrong again, says Dr Stuttaford.

"What it says is that only in occasional

cases, less than 10 per cent, is the condition triggered by a virus, and that viruses can in no way account for the persistence of the condition."

Miss Rantzen said she found it very sad that Dr Stuttaford should be so antagonistic to the views expressed to him by patients and their families. He denies being antagonistic. "Her memory of the events are very different from my own. I am very sympathetic to people who suffer the condition."

Body & Mind, page 18



WIN THE TIMES COOK IN YOUR KITCHEN

Your chance to win dinner for six cooked by Frances Bissell in your home, in Weekend

### MEN'S FASHION SPECIAL

36 pages of autumn style, in the Magazine

PLUS Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

## Barclay brothers challenge TV privacy laws

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE millionaire Barclay brothers went to the High Court yesterday to challenge Britain's laws on privacy.

David and Frederick Barclay, 61, who go to extraordinary lengths to protect their home in the Channel Islands from prying eyes, were furious when a BBC reporter turned up on Breghoum in a small dinghy to film a documentary.

They want to change the law governing television broadcasters after they were told that the Broadcasting Complaints Commission could not investigate a complaint until after the programme had been shown. The item about the twins' extraordinary Gothic castle was shown on BBC2's media programme *The Spin* last October.

Their lawyers are seeking a judicial review into the commission's interpretation of the Broadcasting Act in an action which, some fear could lead to gagging orders on broadcasters. Peter Duffy, counsel for the brothers, who own The Ritz Hotel as well as *The European*, told Mr Justice Sedley that the case involved a discreet but important point: whether there should be a statutory mechanism for the commission to provide protection against the invasion of privacy by journalists prior to broadcast.

The case arose from an investigation by the media programme in August 1995 when John Sweeney, a reporter, gained access by boat to the island, which is separated

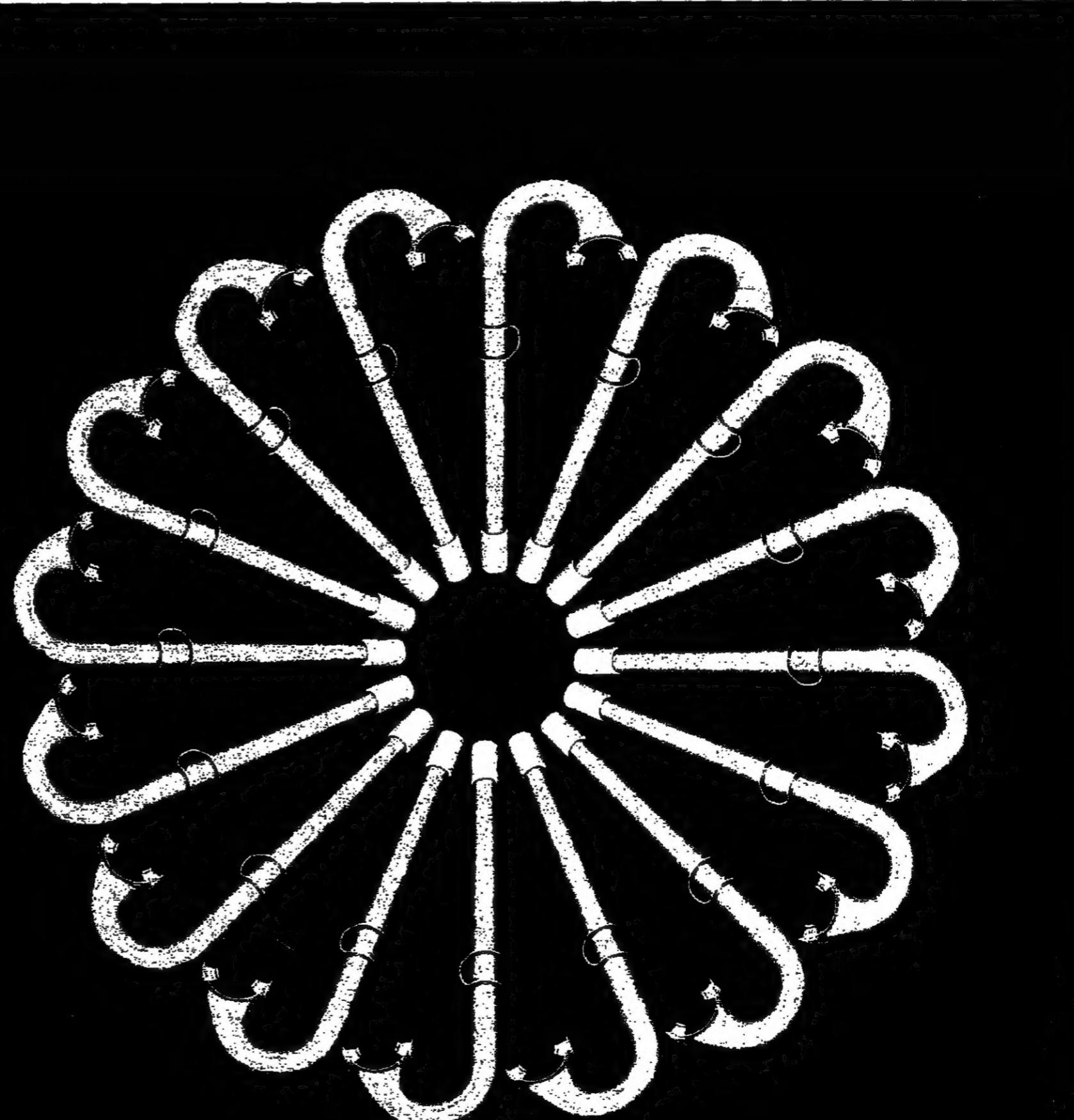
from neighbouring Sark by a treacherous channel.

Mr Duffy said the brothers had no remedy before transmission because the wording of the statute was ambiguous. The 1981 Broadcasting Act says that no infringement of privacy can be undertaken until the programme is "actually so broadcast". Subsequent Acts have tidied up the language but have failed to clear up the confusion.

The failure to redress an infringement of privacy prior to broadcast contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees respect for private and family life, he said.

Mark Shaw, counsel for the BCC, quoted ministers' remarks and said that the commission had followed a clear and unambiguous interpretation of the law. He said: "No doubt there was an invasion but Parliament has taken the view that a line has to be drawn and that line is after there has been a broadcast. If Parliament had intended the law to apply before a broadcast it would have said so."

The BBC, represented by Robert Englehart, QC, supported the commission's interpretation. Mr Justice Sedley is due to deliver his judgment early next week. The Barcleys lodged a formal complaint after the broadcast. An inquiry has been held but has not yet reported its findings. The brothers bought the island in 1993 for an estimated £2.3 million.



## TWO DAYS' GRACE ON YOUR OVERDRAFT MEANS YOU HAVE ROOM TO BREATHE.

With the Halifax Current Account you can now go overdrawn for two days a month without paying a fee. To make things even more flexible, you can do your banking over the telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For an information pack call us on 0800 10 11 10. GET A LITTLE EXTRA HELP WITH YOUR BANKING



<http://www.halifax.co.uk>

**VOLVO OWNERS** COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £120

Extra Safety = Lower Insurance  
Exclusive Schemes for Volvos  
Tel: 01403 260822 NOW!  
Or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on 0345 123111  
**Hill House Hammond** Over 250 Branches Nationwide

\*IF YOU GO OVERDRAWN FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR LESS IN ANY MONTH NO MONTHLY UNAUTHORISED OVERDRAFT CHARGE WILL BE MADE. PLEASE REMEMBER INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED ON OVERDRAFTS AT OUR PUBLISHED RATES. UNDER THE HALIFAX CURRENT ACCOUNT CONDITIONS, AT ANY TIME WE MAY REQUIRE YOU TO PAY US ANY OVERDRAFT INTEREST AND CHARGES WHICH YOU OWE ON YOUR ACCOUNT. HALIFAX CURRENT ACCOUNTS INCLUDING OVERDRAFTS AND THE CHEQUE GUARANTEE SWITCH CARD AND THE SERVICES OFFERED ARE SUBJECT TO A SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER. FULL ACCOUNT DETAILS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HD1 2BG.

## Roedean old girl posed as chemist to order drugs

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER Roedean School pupil was sent cocaine and heroin by a pharmaceutical company after she pretended that she planned to open a chemist's shop.

Rachael Salbstein, 33, whose boyfriend was a drug user, received nearly £1,500 worth of class A drugs in less than a month after placing orders in a false name. She thought of the idea after seeing a television programme about setting up a chemist's and leafed through Yellow Pages for drug companies.

Salbstein admitted to Portsmouth Crown Court seven charges of obtaining property by deception and supplying drugs. She and Tony Sullivan, 31, with whom she lives at Bedhampton, Hampshire, were put on probation for two years. Sullivan admitted two charges of aiding and abetting and possessing drugs.

The drug company, Martindale Pharmaceuticals, had failed to check if Salbstein was a qualified pharmacist. An employee eventually alerted police after seeing an article in



Rachael Salbstein leafed through Yellow Pages for the names of drug companies

'Had he known, he would have given his consent'

## Man in sperm case died hoping wife was pregnant

BY PETER FOSTER

A WOMAN who was banned from using her dead husband's sperm to have a baby thought she was pregnant at the time of his death, the High Court was told yesterday.

The 30-year-old widow, known for legal reasons as Mrs B, asked for the sperm to be taken from her husband as he lay in a coma after catching meningitis in March last year.

She later discovered she was not pregnant but was told by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority that she could not use the sperm because her late husband had not given his written consent.

Yesterday, in the first court action of its kind, she asked for permission to be artificially inseminated in Britain or, if the law did not allow this, to have the sperm exported to America or Europe, where she could receive treatment.

The case, which has been the catalyst for a wide-ranging debate on the ethics of artificial insemination, is expected

to last up to three days. Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, for Mrs B, said that his client, in seeking to have her late husband's child, was being faithful to his wishes as well as her own. The couple had "so much wanted" a baby together, he said.

Lord Lester said the couple had married in church in 1991 and had specifically requested the traditional service from the 1622 prayer book, which puts greater emphasis on procreation in marriage.

He said the couple had discussed the issue of artificial insemination in some detail after reading a newspaper article on the subject. It was because of their knowledge of the possibilities of artificial insemination that Mrs B had asked doctors to take sperm samples from her husband before he died.

When Mrs B's husband fell ill, the couple mistakenly hoped and believed that Mrs B was pregnant. Lord Lester said they had subscribed to a baby magazine and had made

alterations to their home in preparation. Lord Lester added: "There is cogent and compelling evidence, not disputed by the authority, that her husband approved of the use of artificial insemination in the kind of circumstances which arose in this case. This is the central and important fact which distinguishes it from other cases."

"They had specifically thought about it. He lacked the capacity at the time to give his consent, but his wishes were well known beforehand. Had he known he was about to fall unconscious and the consent form was thrust in front of him, on Mrs B's evidence, he would have signed."

He argued that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had taken an "unduly narrow approach" to the law when ordering that the frozen sperm could not be used. Under the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, sperm donors must give written consent for the use of

their sperm unless the donation is made between a couple being treated together.

Lord Lester said that Mrs B's late husband's written consent was therefore needed only after his death when, in the eyes of the law, he in effect became an anonymous donor. "Why should Mrs B's husband, though she had known him for several years, be regarded as a complete stranger?" he asked.

A statement from Baroness Warnock, who chaired the Committee of Inquiry on Human Fertilisation and Embryology, was read to the judge. Sir Stephen Brown, in support of Mrs B's case,

In the statement Baroness Warnock said: "I feel certain, had the Committee of Inquiry considered such a case, we would have seen no ethical or public policy objections to allowing the woman to become pregnant by the use of her husband's frozen sperm, either in this country or abroad."

The case continues.

## Yes, it's a very big coupon, but have you seen the size of your overdraft recently?

The Lloyds Bank Graduate Service proves that our heart is as big as our coupon. Transfer your current account to us and you can apply for a life saving interest free (0% APR) £700 overdraft, not to mention a loan of up to £5000 and up to 2 years fee free banking. For more details freephone 0800 66 44 77 or see if you can squeeze your name and address into the coupon below.

GRADUATE SERVICE

Lloyds Bank

Yes, I am a graduate, and I would dearly love to know how Lloyds Bank can help me.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FILL IN THIS COUPON AND RETURN TO  
GRADUATE SERVICE, LLOYDS BANK, DEPT GWC, FREEPOST SCE 918,  
SWINDON SN3 9HE OR FREEPHONE 0800 66 44 77 QUOTING REF. TIM4.

Lending is subject to the Bank's assessment of your financial position. You must be 18 or over to apply. Overdraft facilities are repayable on full or demand by the Bank. Security may be required. Transaction charges varied until July 1996. This offer is not currently available in Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Written quotations are available from Lloyds Bank Plc, PO Box 112, Castle House, Castle Way, Swindon SN3 9HE. The Graduate Service and Graduate Personal Loan are available to students - graduated since 1990. Lloyds Bank Plc is a member of the Building Societies' Council and a signatory to the Code of Banking Practice. Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 London Street, London EC2P 9EE.

## Massive black hole 'at centre of galaxy'

BY NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENTISTS believe they have proved the existence of a black hole in the centre of the galaxy which is several million times the mass of the Sun and sucks in gas and stars.

The hole at the centre of the Milky Way, has been identified by calculations by Andreas Eckart and Reinhard Genzel of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, near Munich, who measured the "proper motions" of the stars around the putative black hole over a five-year period.

This showed that the velocities of the stars declined the further they were from the centre, just as one would expect if they were in orbit around it, they report in *Nature*. The velocity data also support the idea that the stars are in circular orbit, pulled into shape by the enormous mass at the centre. First results suggest that these stars are moving at 1,000 miles per second.

From the data the mass of the object around which the stars are rotating is 2.4 million times the mass of the Sun. Since there is no object of remotely this size visible in the centre, the only conclusion is it must be a black hole.

## Shame over buck teeth led student to suicide

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A STUDENT from Paris whose life was ruined by her buck teeth left a 13-page suicide letter in her hotel room before plunging into the Thames, an inquest heard yesterday. She had carefully planned her death and travelled to London to carry it out, the City Coroner's Court was told.

A suicide verdict was recorded on Anne-Laure Charlotte Gouliart, 25, who died in April. Her note read: "I am going to kill myself because I have buck teeth. I will fully put an end to my fears and exhaustion. I now only have one fear, to mess it up and wake in a hospital room in more despair."

The woman had booked into a hotel in Victoria the day before she abandoned her belongings there and killed herself. PC Nigel Selb, who dealt with the case, said afterwards: "It is a complete mystery to her family and friends why she did this. She had a perfectly normal life in France."

"You don't know what goes through the minds of young women; they have an image of perfection and take it to the extreme. Her teeth did not protrude excessively."

**SWIFTCALL**

Using Swiftcall you can call USA for only 10p a minute.

**anytime**

For details of incredible savings to hundreds of other international destinations and to open an account, call and quote this REF: T/JZ

**0800 769 0800**

outside UK +44 171 488 2001

Freephone access available to Swiftcall customers on:

**FLAT RATES**

ALL PRICES ARE IN PENCE PER MINUTE

Germany 16p

Ireland 16p

France 16p

Australia 20p

Japan 30p

Taiwan 40p

Hong Kong 40p

South Korea 50p

India 60p

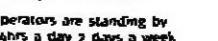
Nigeria 70p

Pakistan 80p

Swiftcall rates apply 24hrs a day 7 days a week.

Operators are standing by 24hrs a day 7 days a week ready to take your call.

Please have your credit card ready.

 INTERNATIONAL

**LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS**

OCTOBER 3  
S consent  
died  
gnam

Shame of  
buck teeth  
led stud-  
to suici-

1  
last  
lary  
gov-  
ther  
cot-  
ian,  
sery

SS  
Clare  
lity  
and  
Jack  
Mo  
reland  
Davies  
on civil

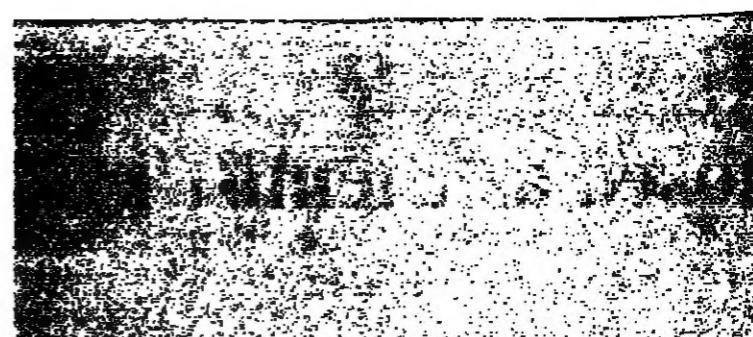
Lemon Yellow



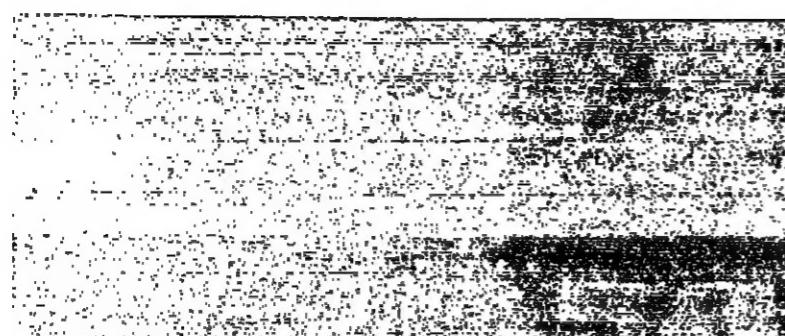
Burnt Sienna



Bright Lime



Royal Blue



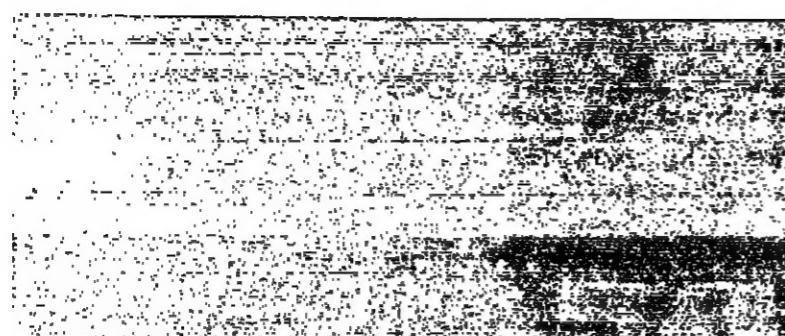
Light Mauve



Chrome Orange



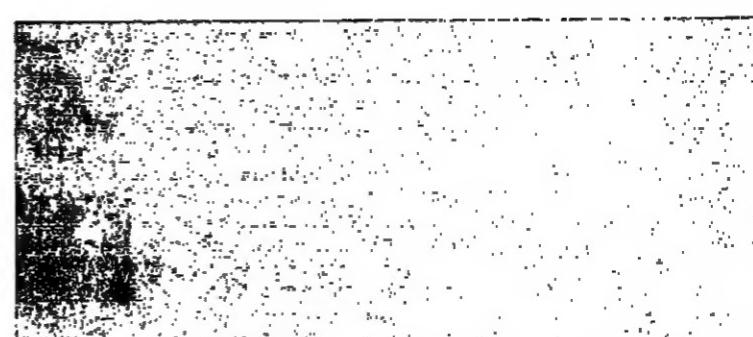
Brick Red



Minty Green



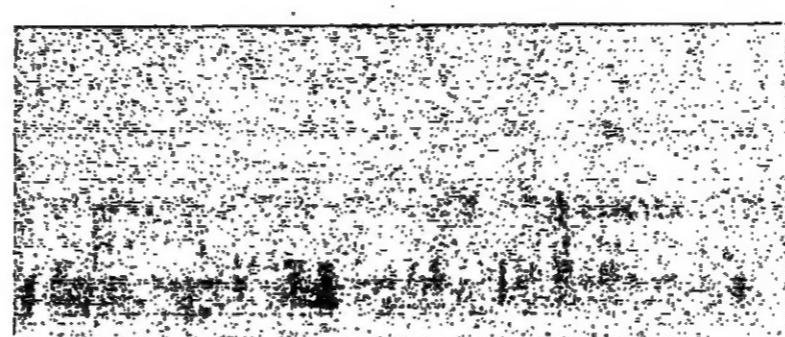
Imperial Purple



Prussian Blue



Hot Pink



Sky Blue



Barium Yellow



Mid Blue



Marine Green



Pastel Pink



Dale Green



Soft Peach



Peacock Blue



Saddle Brown



Grey Green



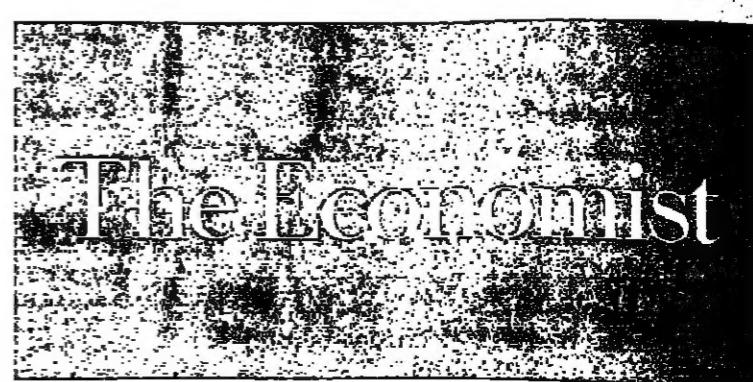
Oyster Beige



Glacier Blue

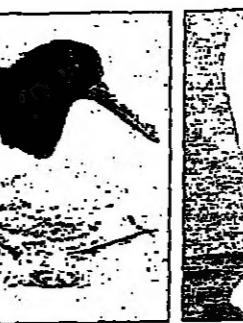
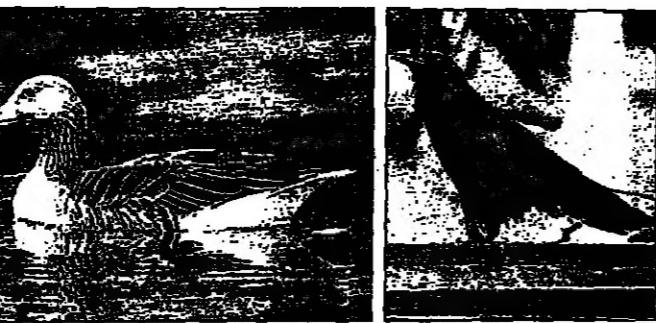


Well Read





Soaring: the national survey found numbers of stonechats, marsh tits, greylag geese and ravens were increasing



Plummeting: populations of golden plovers, oystercatchers, mute swans and swallows were found to be falling

## New survey upsets theories of declining bird numbers

By MICHAEL HORNBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW survey of Britain's birds has thrown into confusion previous notions of declining numbers by including habitats not normally considered such as urban and suburban areas.

The survey also suggests that some birds are staging a comeback, despite damage to their habitats from rural development and intensive farming, thanks to the European Union's much-criticised set-asides policy.

Among farmland birds previously thought to be in long-term decline, linnets and yellow wagtails recorded increases of 15 per cent and 24 per cent between 1994 and 1995, according to the survey, the first of a planned annual bird census. It was carried out



The sand martin, left, showed an increase, but jays were among species showing the most striking decline



marsh tits and ravens recorded population increases of between 35 and 169 per cent. Golden plovers, oystercatchers, jays, mute swans and swallows suffered the most striking declines, ranging from 17 to 63 per cent. Ornithologists said the find-

ings were encouraging but cautioned against reading too much into one year's figures. They said some of the results would be corrected in subsequent counts.

Mike Everett, of the RSPB, said: "Previous monitoring has concentrated almost exclusively on farmland and woodland habitats and has had a strong bias towards southern England, the most intensively farmed area. This probably led to underestimates of the overall size of bird populations. The new survey is nation-wide and includes upland

grassland, heaths, bogs and other habitats, including urban and suburban areas. This should give a truer picture, particularly of birds not heavily dependent on farmland and woodland. Urban areas support many birds."

An apparent 169 per cent

increase in greylag geese is being treated with scepticism. Chris Harbard, also of the RSPB, said: "We know that the geese, essentially farmland birds that have gone wild, have been on the increase, but there is no way they could have gone up one and a half times in a year."

Ornithologists are more

confident of some of the other findings. Increases in numbers of goldcrests (up 30 per cent), wrens (14 per cent) and robins (11 per cent) are attributed to the mild winter of 1994-95. However, their numbers may have been adversely affected by the harsher and longer 1995-96 winter.

Richard Bashford, of the BTO, who co-ordinated the survey, said: "Many summer migrants did well, including white-throats, chiffchaffs and

willow warblers, probably because of good rain and feeding conditions in sub-Saharan Africa where they winter. This meant more of them returned here and produced more young." The survey confirmed that, while some farmland birds may have recovered, others are still in decline, among them swallows, kestrels and bullfinches.

Ornithologists were surprised by the big drops recorded in mute swans and golden plovers by 22 per cent and 63 per cent respectively. Mr Everett said: "We are pretty certain the golden plover figure was distorted by the inclusion of large numbers of migrant birds of passage in the 1994 count. The apparent decline in swans is more mysterious as all other recent surveys show they are increasing."

## Consumer champion aims to revive role

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Consumers' Association is seeking to revitalise its role as a campaigning political pressure group.

The organisation, which publishes the *Which?* group of magazines and has almost 750,000 members, is doing the rounds of the party conferences touring a manifesto called *Making Markets Work*, which catalogues the reforms the association would like the next government to initiate.

Stephen Harris, director of communications, said yesterday: "We are trying to get back to the role CA had in the 1970s. During the 1980s consumerism became confused with consumption. Legitimate consumer concerns were pushed aside while attention focused on how much money people had and how much they were spending. We still see that with all the talk about the 'feel-good' factor."

Mr Harris said the present Government clearly attached high value to the interests of industry and other producers. "They attach very low value to consumer interests. The de-regulation initiative is a much clearer indication where this Government is coming from than the 'Citizen's Charter,'" he said. "If consumers had even an equal footing with producers in the Government's consideration there would not have been the terrible mess in the Government's reactions to the BSE crisis," he claimed.

Mr Harris said the association had identified six key areas. Campaign teams have been established in the fields of communications, health, including food, personal finance, public utilities, redress, and transport.

From now on we intend to punch our weight," Mr Harris said.

□ A call for higher standards among professional bodies involved in drafting wills was made by the Consumers' Association after a survey found that more than a quarter were incorrect or confusing.

In a survey of 51 wills, reported in *Which?*, a panel of legal experts rated 15 as "poor", 24 were "average" and only 12 were "good".

Leading article, page 21

## Stables fire man in court

A man condemned for his actions during a stable fire that killed four racehorses appeared before Swindon magistrates charged with causing criminal damage. Brian Simpson, 45, from Wroughton, Wiltshire, spent three days in hospital after being dragged unconscious from the fire at the trainer Jim Old's complex. He was bailed until November 28.

### Tokyo jailing

John Irvine, 25, from Jersey, was jailed for five years by a court in Tokyo for importing 1.5 kg of opium into Japan. Irvine, who admitted the offence, was arrested after arriving on a flight from Thailand. He was also fined the equivalent of £5,900.

### Rapist jailed

Ian Clarke, 24, of Rainham, Kent, who followed a 14-year-old girl home from a railway station, forced his way into her house and raped her, was jailed for ten years at Maidstone. The judge ordered that he should be strictly supervised after release.

### Festival returns

The Glastonbury Festival is to return next year with places for an extra 20,000 music fans after being cancelled this summer. The move will increase capacity to 100,000 for the event, to be held on June 27, 28 and 29. A park-and-ride scheme is planned.

### Turned turtle

A giant leatherback turtle has been washed up on the Isle of Lewis. The slightly decomposed creature, about 7ft by 4ft, is believed to have come from the mid-Atlantic or the Caribbean. It was believed to be the first to be found on the island in ten years.

### Clock voice dies

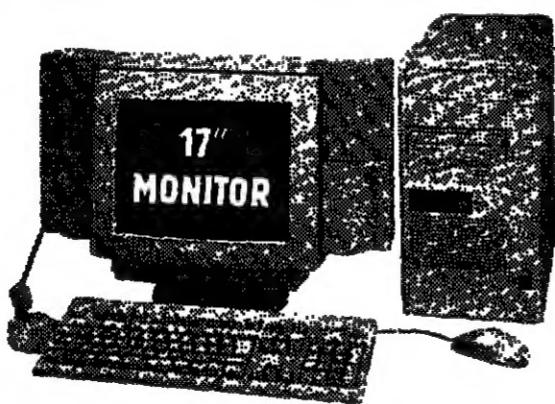
The actress who provided the voice for Britain's first speaking clock has died aged 90 in a nursing home in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. In 1936 Jane Cain won a competition to declare over the telephone "At the third stroke, the time will be..."

# > BRITAIN'S BEST JUST GOT BIGGER.

> PLUS, BUY NOW & PAY NOTHING UNTIL OCTOBER '97 ON SELECTED PC'S.

Throughout the UK this weekend, Byte are opening 46 new stores within Office World - making Byte Computer Superstores Britain's biggest computer retailer.

## > NEW AST RANGE OF MULTIMEDIA PC'S



### AST ADVANTAGE P200 NEW

Intel 200MHz Pentium® Processor, 32MB EDO RAM, 3.0Gb Hard Disk Drive, 8 x CD ROM Drive, 16-bit Soundcard & Stereo Speakers, MPEG Playback, Fast 28.8 Modem. MODEL AST 5208

**32 MB EDO RAM £2799 INC. VAT**

### AST ADVANTAGE P200 NEW

Intel 120MHz Pentium® Processor, 16MB EDO RAM, 1.2Gb Hard Disk Drive, 8 x CD ROM Drive, 16-bit Soundcard and Stereo Speakers, MPEG Playback, Extensive software bundle. MODEL AST 7308

FIRST TIME MACHINE WITH HOME AND ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE

**8 SPEED CD ROM £1399 INC. VAT**

## > LATEST MULTIMEDIA HP PAVILIONS IN STOCK



### > HP PAVILION P100 MULTIMEDIA NEW

Intel 133MHz Pentium® Processor, 16MB EDO RAM, 1.2Gb Hard Disk Drive, 8 x CD ROM Drive, 16-bit Soundcard, 3D Stereo Sound, MPEG Playback, Fast 28.8 Modem. MODEL HP 72208 Mini Tower

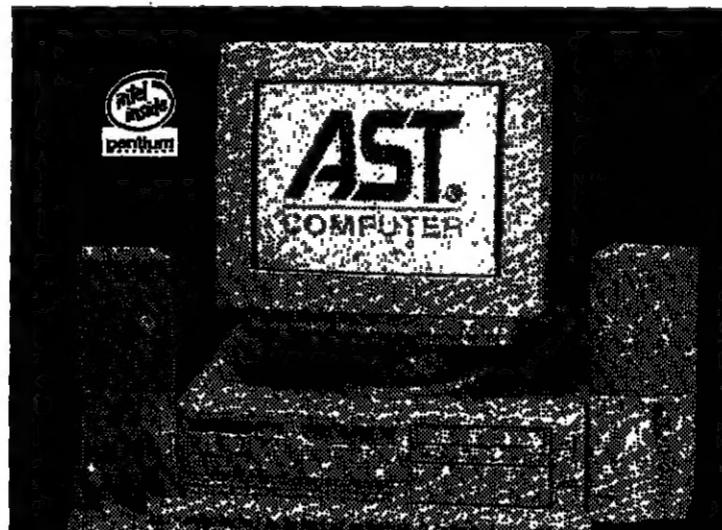
HUGE HOME, REFERENCE, GAMES AND SMALL OFFICE SOFTWARE

**PHOTO DRIVE £2149 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**



### AST ADVANTAGE P700 NEW

Intel 133MHz Pentium® Processor, 18MB EDO RAM, 1.6Gb Hard Disk Drive, 8 x CD ROM Drive, 16-bit Soundcard, MPEG Playback, Fast 28.8 Modem, 2MB VRAM, 15" Monitor, Joystick. Extensive entertainment software bundle. MODEL AST 7308

GREAT GAMES ON PC PLATFORM WITH COMMUNICATIONS

**3D GRAPHICS & SURROUND SOUND £1799 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA FOR ONLY £999 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**BUY NOW PAY OCT '97**

**16MB RAM £1599 INC. VAT**

**‘She could not accept Germany ending the century a winner and her own nation a loser’**



**On a joint troop visit with Lady Thatcher, Herr Kohl had some difficulty squeezing into a tank...**

# How Thatcher used tea and tanks to outgun Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

**BARONESS THATCHER**  
was a driven woman who,  
according to Chancellor  
Helmut Kohl, never let him  
get a word in edgeways.  
Whenever he tried, she used to  
snap at him not to interrupt  
her.

**her.** The German leader's observations, laced with occasional respectful asides about the former Prime Minister, appear in his memoir of the unification years that was launched with much pomp in Bonn yesterday. The Chancellor, it seems, cannot chase away the ghost of Lady Thatcher, who was the one leader who openly stated her disfavour of German ambitions in Europe.

"We had fierce arguments on several occasions. As a rule it went like this: she talked at

an unbelievable speed and did not let me utter a word. When I tried, after a while, to open

I tried, after a while, to open my mouth she snapped, *Don't interrupt me! You're talking all the time!*" Herr Kohl noted that Mrs Thatcher used the teapot, rather than her handbag, in her negotiating tactics. "Whenever the atmosphere grew icy, she poured out tea. It took me a while to work out why: that she regarded readiness to compromise as a sign

ness to compromise as a sign of weakness."

His book, entitled *I Wanted German Unity*, is part of the public fanfare to mark Herr Kohl's 14 years in office: at the end of the month he overtakes Konrad Adenauer's record tenure. But it is also neatly timed to revive mixed memories of Lady Thatcher's views on German unification, the missiles."

On another occasion, the Chancellor recalled the competitiveness of the British leader. During a troop visit in Germany, Lady Thatcher and Herr Kohl climbed into tanks for the photographers. It naturally took the Chancellor somewhat longer to squeeze into the turret and Mrs Thatcher seized the moment

... Lady Thatcher seized the moment, got in ahead of the Chancellor and pulled the trigger. "Margaret shot first and, of course, she hit the target," he recalls.



German unity. But in the book, he passes over this with surprisingly gentle irony. In Cambridge in March 1990, he recalls, "she honoured my efforts to keep united Germany within Nato and in doing so tried to give the impression that she was always for unification". Lady Thatcher's chief problem, writes the Chancellor, was that she could not accept the possibility that Germany would end the current century as a winner while her own nation, twice threatened by the

Germany, twice threatened by the Germans, could emerge as a loser. She was stuck, according to Herr Kohl, in an outdated vision of history, a 19th century balance-of-power philosophy.

The Chancellor confesses to

the personalities of other statesmen and women.

Herr Kohl swears that he will not write a full autobiography and, for the time being at least, his most revealing work is a cook book, bringing together recipes from favour-

together recipes from favourite restaurants and pitstops in Germany. Its authenticity has recently taken a knock. On a talk show last month he said he used an astonishing 18 eggs to make crème caramel, his favourite dessert. He may not be as expert a cook as the recipe book makes out and there are suspicions it may have been ghosted.

her views, fought openly and did not try to go behind my back, a quality that I highly respect." Praise for Mrs Thatcher's honesty may have been directed at the French, whose doubts about German unity were never expressed with full candour, even though Herr Kohl has only pleasant words for the late French President, François Mitterrand.

The book is a polite memoir, as befits a leader still in office. He is the last of the principal actors on stage in 1989-90 to give his view of German unification: George Bush, Lady Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, M Mitterrand, James Baker and Hans Dietrich Genscher have all had their say. They show broad agreement on the substance but clear differences of emphasis. Herr Kohl is nicer to Mr Bush than was Lady Thatcher. Mr Bush, in turn, is harsher than

# The trouble with Helmut: ‘He is so German!’

**BY MICHAEL DYNES AND PHILLIP WEBSTER**

THE majority of Britons may have believed the war with Germany ended in 1945 but for Baroness Thatcher the enmity never really stopped.

another bilateral meeting in Herr Kohl's home town of Oggersheim, he offered Lady Thatcher a traditional Bavarian dish of pig's stomach, which she duly consumed.

stopped.

Her uneasy relationship with Helmut Kohl, whom she regarded as a sly, German "provincial politician", was set against the backdrop of her own anxieties over German economic power and her resentment at the Franco-German relationship in Europe.

Lady Thatcher's most cutting remarks about the Chancellor were usually made in

which she duly consumed, although clearly did not enjoy. Herr Kohl did much of the talking about the future of Europe and told Sir Charles Powell, Lady Thatcher's adviser, that he hoped he had got over to her that he was a strong European. Relieved to return to the sanctuary of her VC10, Lady Thatcher kicked off her shoes and declared: "That man is so German!"

When she was not lambasting Herr Kohl for his failure to master his brief at summit meetings, Lady Thatcher was denouncing him for his "grand gestures" and "gushes of Euro-enthusiasm". Bitter quarrels over the pace of European integration, the future of Nato and the speed of German reunification had to be put aside.

Their prickly relationship was the talk of senior diplomatic circles for years. They just found it hard to be together. Things were not helped when the workaholic Prime Minister, on holiday in Switzerland, decided that she and the resting Herr Kohl should meet in Austria. The story goes that after taking what he felt was quite enough of Lady Thatcher's lecturing, Herr Kohl left, pleading another appointment. The frustrated Prime Minister went out for a walk, only to find Herr Kohl with his aides in a café gorging himself on cream cakes. At

Their prickly relationship was the talk of senior diplomatic circles for years. They just found it hard to be together. Things were not helped when the workaholic Prime Minister, on holiday in Switzerland, decided that she and the resting Herr Kohl should meet in Austria. The story goes that after taking what he felt was quite enough of Lady Thatcher's lecturing, Herr Kohl left, pleading another appointment. The frustrated Prime Minister went out for a walk, only to find Herr Kohl with his aides in a café gorging himself on cream cakes. At

tion led to many a "handbagging". He never said it in public, but few were more relieved at her fall from power in 1990 than Herr Kohl. However, he showed a compassionate side on the fateful night when she failed to secure a majority in the first ballot of the Tory leadership election. Lady Thatcher heard the result at the British Embassy in Paris and then went off to a dinner with world leaders. As luck would have it, her neighbour was Herr Kohl who, as he sat down beside her, declared: "Mrs Thatcher, it is my duty for the next two hours to cheer you up."

**NEW BYTE STORES WITHIN**

# Office World

**AYLESBURY** Tel: 01296 398399  
**BANBURY** Tel: 01295 275777  
**BASINGSTOKE** Tel: 01256 478777  
**BEDFORD** Tel: 01234 352235  
**BIRMINGHAM** Tel: 0121 212 2666  
**BLACKPOOL** Tel: 01253 408444  
**BRADFORD** Tel: 01274 741565  
**BRISTOL** Tel: 0117 955 1968  
**CAMBRIDGE** Tel: 01223 363336  
**CHELMSFORD** Tel: 01245 252772  
**COVENTRY** Tel: 01203 597666  
**DERBY** Tel: 01332 201777  
**DUDLEY** Tel: 01384 233444  
**EPSOM** Tel: 01372 725572  
**EXETER** Tel: 01392 428000  
**GLASGOW** Tel: 0141 552 5005  
**GLOUCESTER** Tel: 01452 413555  
**HARLOW** Tel: 01279 428642  
**LEEDS** Tel: 0113 242 5666  
**LEICESTER** Tel: 0116 253 8111  
**LINCOLN** Tel: 01522 575222  
**LIVERPOOL** Tel: 0151 260 2866  
**LONDON - Colindale** Tel: 0181 200 4288  
**LONDON - Park Royal** Tel: 0181 838 1665  
**LONDON - Southwark** Tel: 0171 635 0866  
**LONDON - Tottenham** Tel: 0181 493 0666  
**LONDON - Western Avenue** Tel: 0181 992 5656  
**LUTON** Tel: 01582 485333  
**MANCHESTER** Tel: 0161 839 4266  
**MILTON KEYNES** Tel: 01903 677977  
**NORTHAMPTON** Tel: 01604 259321  
**NOTTINGHAM** Tel: 0115 958 9866  
**OXFORD** Tel: 01865 241666  
**PETERBOROUGH** Tel: 01733 319666  
**PORTSMOUTH** Tel: 01705 862222  
**PRESTON** Tel: 01772 200077  
**READING** Tel: 01734 560777  
**SHEFFIELD** Tel: 0114 279 6556  
**SLough** Tel: 01753 575558  
**SOLIHULL** Tel: 0121 733 6900  
**SOUTHAMPTON** Tel: 01703 231132  
**SWANSEA** Tel: 01782 773666  
**SWINDON** Tel: 01793 695111  
**WARRINGTON** Tel: 01925 240400  
**WIGAN** Tel: 01942 498444  
**YORK** Tel: 01904 656444

**PLUS, BYTE COMPUTER SUPERSTORES AT**

**CROYDON** Tel: 0131 636 2666  
**EDINBURGH** Tel: 0131 453 7400  
**GATESHEAD** Tel: 0191 491 0333  
**LONDON** Tel: 0171 374 6444  
**MERRY HILL** Tel: 01384 70123  
**MILTON KEYNES** Tel: 01908 240240  
**NOTTINGHAM** Tel: 0115 950 6566  
**SHEFFIELD** Tel: 0114 261 0333  
**SLough** Tel: 01753 511544  
**SOLIHULL** Tel: 0121 733 6900  
**STOKE-ON-TRENT** Tel: 01782 205 055

# 46

## NEW STORES OPEN IN OFFICE WORLD THIS WEEKEND

### >TOP BRAND PORTABLES ON DISPLAY

Intel 100MHz Pentium® Processor. 8MB RAM.  
810MB Hard Disk Drive. 11.3" SVGA Colour Screen.

MODEL T1570CD

6 SPEED  
CD ROM

**£1849**  
INC. VAT

8MB  
RAM

Intel 100MHz Pentium® Processor. 8MB EDO RAM.  
11.3" SVGA Colour Screen. MODEL T110CS

6 SPEED  
CD ROM

**£1799**  
INC. VAT

8MB  
EDO RAM

### >HUGE SELECTION OF SOFTWARE & MULTIMEDIA

<b>DAWN PATROL/NAVY STRIKE &amp; QUICKSHOT JOYSTICK BUNDLE</b>	<b>£19.99</b>	INC-VAT		
<b>THEME PARK/FIFA SOCCER &amp; REVEAL JOYSTICK BUNDLE</b>	<b>£14.99</b>	INC-VAT		
<b>MICROSOFT CLOSE COMBAT</b>	<b>£29.99</b>	INC-VAT		
<b>MASTERCLIPS 35000 CLIPS</b>	<b>£29.99</b>	INC-VAT		
<b>AZTEC 8 X CD ROM DRIVE</b>	<b>£129.99</b>	INC-VAT		
				
Over 5000 PC products always in stock, ready for you to take away	The lowest priced accessories, memory, drives, the best possible cover	20 years PC experience and wisdom ensure you can't get better advice.	We're brighter because our staff are learned by computer people, not sales people.	All the leading brands and star names in PC technology continually in stock.
<b>NO DEPOSIT, BUY NOW PAY OCT '97 ON TOP BRAND PC's</b>				
Typical computer system: AST 486 20MHz 1MB RAM 720MB Winchester PC 100% deposit, pay nothing until October 1997. Credit Price £1000 inc. VAT. Take either 36 or 48 months by October 1997 or pay additional monthly instalments of £25. Total amount payable £1443.71 APR 22.5%. Variable interest paid by direct debit Subject to status. Written quotations on request.				
<b>27.8% APR</b>				



**WE WILL NOT BE  
BEATEN ON ANY PRICE  
ON ANY PRODUCT**

Suppliers: CROYDON 0181 650 5954 Off-Hire, New Addington, Royal Park, Tel. 0181 261 0222. SURREY HILL FURNITURE LTD., Dagenham, Tel. 01705 571044. BROMLEY, Bromley Road, Shirley, Tel. 0121 765 0000. STOURBRIDGE-ON-TRENT, Century Royal Park, Tel. 01782 215 022. Byre Direct Mail Order Service Tel. 0121 765 2220. himself on cream cakes. At cheer you up." Yes

# Party plays big brother to Westminster hopefuls

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR parliamentary candidates have received a set of "Big Brother" instructions on how they should prepare for Westminster, including which hotels to choose, who to employ, and what to tell the bank manager.

Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, has also advised candidates to visit Westminster before Parliament assembles so that they "can pace around the buildings" and find their bearings before their first day. It informs candidates that the whips' office has a list of people seeking to work for Labour MPs and is compiling a list of suitable hotels.

The instructions, which warn candidates that loyalty and unity will be essential, are contained in a guide to party candidates that has been distributed at Blackpool.

The document includes advice ranging from travel arrangements, computer facilities, and the inner workings of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). In a section entitled "Accommodation in London", it advises MPs to stay in hotels at Westminster for

the first few months. The Additional Costs Allowance more than covers four nights a week in a reasonable hotel. The whips' office is presently compiling a list of suitable hotels in the Westminster and Victoria areas and with luck will have negotiated preferential rates for Labour MPs in time for the next Parliament.

In the longer term, MPs may want to buy or rent in London, it says. The whips' office clerks keep a file of estate agents and property rental agencies.

On hiring staff it warns of the pitfalls of advertising. "This will result in hundreds of applications which have to be scrutinised and replied to—quite a daunting task especially with no staff to help."

It discloses that the PLP office keeps a file of CVs of people seeking to work for Labour MPs. "You may consult this file but it is important to note that a candidate's inclusion in the file does not constitute any kind of "seal of approval".

It also advises candidates to negotiate an overdraft with



their bank manager. "You will have to pay out for accommodation, petrol and some office expenses then, reclaim the money from the Fees Office on a monthly basis. It may take up to six weeks from spending the money to getting it back. You may well need to discuss this issue with your bank manager at an early stage, particularly if you have had no income during the election campaign."

The document, which assumes a Labour victory, devotes a big section to the importance of party discipline after the general election. "Only once the general election is won will the real work

really begin. Winning the general election will mean nothing if a Labour government cannot get its legislation onto the Statute Book and build a platform for a second term." To achieve this, it says, the Parliamentary Labour Party must command a continued majority in the House of Commons.

"In adversity this majority can be tested on a daily basis. Unity and ability to act in concert is, and always has been, the cornerstone of Labour movement power. It will be no different in the Government led by Tony Blair."

Mr Dewar's latest demand for unity comes as the party reviews its disciplinary procedures. There is speculation that there will be a crackdown on rebels.

Yesterday party sources described the guide, written by Mr Dewar, Nick Brown, deputy chief whip, and Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, as a standard document. A spokesman said it was designed to give candidates a guide to the Commons and the pressures MPs will be under when they arrive.



Jackie Stacey, senior presentation officer, who arranges everything from the lavish set to the shape of the water tumblers

## Showing Labour in a good light

JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

**FORGET** the spin-doctors. The mastermind of presentation responsible for Labour's slick image at the Blackpool conference is Jackie Stacey.

Mrs Stacey, 38, decides what colour of paint looks good behind Tony Blair, what type of set he should speak from, and what music should accompany his entrance to the hall. With her team of party workers and technicians, she is

responsible for the videos that precede the big speeches, the lighting, the auto-cues, even the shape of the water tumblers for those on the platform.

Since she took over the job in 1993, she has stage-managed and choreographed the party's press conferences, public meetings, and party conferences. This week she can be seen wandering the Blackpool conference hall quietly issuing orders to her staff through a radio microphone.

Mrs Stacey, a mother of two, has

worked for the party for ten years, and explains that an understanding of the party is essential to her work. "It is my job to make things look as good as possible," she says. "I don't get involved in policy. I just think about presenting what they come up with in the best way."

She denies that Labour has now become the past-master of style without substance. "Everybody knows that if you have not got good policies, the presentation will look like a sham. The presentation is the icing on the cake."

## Adrenalin and kindness create feel-good factor

ATTENDING either as an apparatchik or an MP I never actually spoke at a Conservative Party conference. I took the view, in any case, that only heroes or lunatics — the ratio of them is a matter for judgment — speak either at Tory conferences or in the 192 Committee.

At the beginning of this week I didn't know whether I would seek to speak at Blackpool. It seemed important to listen, get a sense of the dynamics of conference and observe what works in speeches and what doesn't. I find it impossible in cold blood to prepare a speech with which I can be happy. Until I can imagine the audience, the political atmosphere, the physical reality, it's all too remote. The stimulus isn't there and the effort is all uphill.

By late on Tuesday night the adrenalin was flowing enough for me to decide to have a go. Conference was kind and I feel good having done it.

I went off at lunchtime to chair the Shelter fringe meeting. It was very well attended, perhaps because of what New Labour might call the uncoveted fine weather, perhaps because it's in the folklore that you get a better buffet with Shelter, but in truth simply because it was a Shelter meeting. For 30 years Shelter has been one of those pressure groups that have been remaking our democratic culture. The professionalisation of politics has meant less independence of both thought and utterance on the back benches, and the development of the media has extended the forum decisively beyond the Commons. A campaigning group like Shelter, combining expertise and passion, has ensured that its field of concern remains prominent and that MPs and journalists have no excuse for ignorance.

At a previous meeting, organised by Demos, I made

groups enable us to have a better quality of debate, in the end politics cannot just be the pursuit of single issues to the ultimate. It must be about the reconciliation of interests. It does have to be about hard choices.

It matters very much for our democracy that Labour is able to persuade young people to extend their own political commitment beyond pressure group activity to parliamentary politics. The statistic that haunts me from the last general election is that only 43 per cent of 18-24 year olds voted at all.

An electrifying speech by Barbara Castle was matched by a consummate and courageous speech by Harriet Harman. I think I can imagine Harriet too, in the very distant future, as an elegant old lady subversively holding conference in the palm of her hand.

One MP who has attended more party conferences than anyone should offer me his advice as an old sweat. If you watch the debates on TV in your bedroom, he observed, it's easier to keep up with your laundry. He'd better be careful the red doesn't run from the "Good Old Labour" T-shirts on sale at the Tribune Rally.

Alan Howarth is MP for Stratford-on-Avon



CONFERENCE DIARY

## 20mph speed limit planned at schools

BY JAMES LANDALE

LABOUR is planning a 20 mph speed limit outside schools to improve the safety of children. Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, announced yesterday.

An initiative to set up "safe routes" to schools is also envisaged. Businesses and residents along the route could join a scheme under which they kept an eye on pupils as they went to school. The pedestrianisation of certain streets is also a possibility.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, told the Labour conference in Blackpool that he would shortly begin consulting with police, schools and local authorities to see how the plans could be put into practice. Mr Smith hopes the lower speed limit will cut the rising number of accidents involving children outside school.

He also hopes to cut traffic congestion around schools by encouraging parents not to take their children by car. If

the routes are safer, Mr Smith believes parents will feel happier about letting their children go to school unaccompanied, on foot or by bicycle. Labour will examine "safe routes" run by councils in west London and Leicestershire. The announcement came in Mr Smith's first conference speech as Shadow Transport Secretary. He reaffirmed Labour's commitment to a "publicly owned, publicly accountable" railway and pledged to re-regulate the bus system.

"We will use the formidable powers of the regulator and a publicly-owned British Rail to meet clear goals: to improve the network and to win lots more passengers and freight on to rail," he said. Although there were some calls for a complete reversal of rail privatisation, a motion by the RMT rail union committing Labour to start bringing the railways back into public ownership in its first term of government was not called for debate.



National weekday calls in the daytime will be permanently cut by 10%. And with BT's Level 1 Business Choices discounts you can save an additional 27% on every call you make. These prices and discounts also apply to ISDN. Ring the BT Business Connections team for your free savings checkup.

5 minute national weekday daytime call.	Pre 8th October	Post 8th October	% Reduction	After Business Choices discount
	49p	44p	10%	33p

October 8th. Massive price cuts. BT Freefone 0800 800 800

5p MINIMUM CHARGE PER CALL. DIRECT DIALED CALLS ONLY. EXCLUDES BT CHARGE CARD, BT PUBLIC PAYPHONE CALLS AND CALLS TO MOBILES. QUARTERLY SITE FEE PAYABLE £5 (EX VAT) FOR BUSINESS CHOICES LEVEL 1

مكتبة الأصل

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

## Even a bold Blair government unlikely to join EMU first wave

The main difference between the parties on Europe is that a majority of Tories regard a single currency primarily as a constitutional question and most on the Labour side see it as an economic one. So for many Tories it is an absolute matter of principle, and for most Labour MPs and trade unionists it is a relative issue of economic advantage. It is almost impossible to envisage a re-elected Tory Government recommending entry. For a Blair Cabinet, the decision would be more one of balance of timing — when, not whether.

The divisions within both par-

ties on Europe are less important than the different way the issue is viewed within them. Of course, many Tories worry about the economic side of EMU and many Labour MPs recognise the constitutional implications. But there is a difference of priorities, of sticking points. Labour takes a different view of sovereignty, not taking an absolutist view of the supremacy of Westminster but believing it can be shared, via devolution and a Bill of Rights. For a large number of Tory MPs, there can never be any compromise on such a basic constitutional principle.

These fears are shared by some,

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

mainly older, Labour MPs such as Peter Shore, Nigel Spearing and Austin Mitchell. For most on the Labour Left, economic arguments are central — though they are concerned about the lack of democratic control over the European Central Bank.

The main worry on the Labour Left is the broadly Keynesian one that monetary union will be too deflationary — that tight targets for inflation and public borrowing will increase unemployment. The Left emphasises real, as opposed

to just financial, convergence. Robin Cook talked on Tuesday about the need to set objectives for unemployment, though the Labour leadership has not wanted to tie its hands with specific job

targets. Most of the Labour Party is now at home in Europe. Labour local authorities look to Brussels for regional grants and trade unions, of course, back the development of European social policies, including the social chapter.

The case for British involve-

ment was presented last week in a pamphlet, *Jobs, Growth and Security*, by 14 MPs headed by Giles Radice, the chairman of the European Movement, but including members across the Labour spectrum. And, at a fringe meeting yesterday, John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, argued that "on balance, we say go for it — for once let us be in the first wave."

The Labour leadership is more cautious, hoping to stick until after the election to the formula that the decision will depend on the economic conditions at the time. Gordon Brown would like a Labour government to be in a

position to join, if it wanted to do so. He would like the wording in the manifesto to be seen as providing a mandate for such a decision without the need for a referendum, which would involve lengthy uncertainty and risks.

But other leaders, including Tony Blair, believe that "the full consent of the people" will require endorsement via either a referendum or a second election. Mr Cook also takes this view and, in addition, is wary of taking such an economic leap until it is clear that EMU works. Hence the view that a Blair government would proba-

bly not join EMU at the start. In any event, so much needs to be done before Britain could enter — legislation to end the opt-out, to make the Bank of England operationally independent and to pool reserves — that there is almost a force of inertia against entry in the first wave.

A Blair government would have to act quickly and boldly if it wanted to be in at the start. That now looks unlikely, but it must still be a 30 or 40 per cent chance if Labour has a big enough Commons majority.

PETER RIDDELL

## Castle is defeated in battle to win higher pensions

By JILL SHERMAN, ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR came through his only serious challenge of Labour's conference week last night when Baroness Castle of Blackburn's call for higher spending on pensions was comfortably defeated.

The leadership's determination to be tough on spending was backed by a three to two majority; delegates threw out the veteran campaigner's demand for a £3.5 billion package to increase the income of all pensioners. Mr Blair needed the victory to deflect Tory claims that in government Labour's rigour would weaken.

But after two days of negotiations by Mr Blair, Gordon Brown and John Prescott with union leaders and constituency activists, the leadership got its way. The Shadow Chancellor spent yesterday luncheon trying to win over 100 delegates to his cause.

Lady Castle's defeat came in spite of an emotional conference reception for her as she criticised Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, and Mr Brown. Attacking the Shadow Chancellor's attempt to cut the rate of tax to 10% for low earners, she said it would not give a penny to the three million pensioners who were too poor to pay income tax.

Lady Castle, 85, used both

humour and history to reject the compromise pension review put forward by the national executive and call for a decision before the general election. In a speech that was applauded as much in nostalgia as for its contribution to the debate, she accused the "backroom boys" behind the Labour leadership of being unable to grasp the trickier aspects of pension policy, which she had wrestled with as Employment and Productivity Minister in 1974.

She joked that any applause would eat into the three-minute time slot she was allowed for her contribution. In the event she exceeded her time by at least five minutes.

To rapturous applause, Ms Harman promised that the review would look at the state pension, including the earnings link, the second-tier pension, including Serps and community care. But she gave no firm pledges and there was little indication that the leadership would change its position before the general election.

"We owe it to them not to make promises we know we can't keep and that we know could threaten our chance to help them in government. But what we can promise and deliver is that for the first time in government, pensioners will be listened to directly, their voices heard on the key issues that affect them."

Leading article, page 21

## Prescott recalls 1992 election 'horror'

By ALICE THOMSON

JOHN PRESCOTT rallied Labour troops for the coming general election yesterday and promised that a Labour government would clean up "Sleazy Tory" politics.

The deputy Labour leader reminded the conference at Blackpool about what it was

like when they "woke up in horror", on April 10, 1992, to the "devastating defeat" of the last election. Launching "Operation Victory", he declared that they had to remind people "what the Tories have done to our country. Let us remind ourselves of this sleazy, disgraced, divided and despicable excuse for a government".

He showed a "video nasty" of Tory Cabinet members, and the hall hissed.

The scandalous revelations of the last few days make it more vital than ever that the Nolan committee [on standards in public life] looks into the issue of party political funding," he said.

Telling members to work to

return Labour to power, he declared: "Knock on doors and talk to friends. We have to reach the public. On the phone or in person — and through their letter-boxes or on their doorsteps."

"This is about victory. About winning the election. And there is nothing more important than that."

## Blunkett sees off revolt on selection

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

DELEGATES were sharply divided over demands for a ban on selection in education. Left-wing calls for the abolition of selective grant-maintained schools were widely supported, despite pressure from the leadership to drop the demand. A motion backed by almost four in ten delegates criticised party policy makers for setting up "centres of excellence" for the most able children rather than "concentrating on the education of the many".

Although the leadership defeated the motion, by 62 per cent to 38 per cent, the debate reopened internal divisions and threatened to divert attention from a series of announcements from David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary.

He gave details of the plan for a citizens' service programme under which unemployed young people would volunteer for paid community work. Under the £30 million plan, 100,000 Millennium Volunteers aged from 16 to 25 would be recruited by 2000.

Mr Blunkett confirmed plans for literacy summer schools to help children who are falling behind in their education. "We are proposing that anyone a year or more behind at the age of 10 or 11 will attend a three-week summer school before transferring into secondary education.

He also pledged to start work on the £5 billion backlog in school repairs, to phase out the assisted places scheme and to provide improved teacher training.

ALICE THOMSON

POLITICAL REPORTER

A WOMAN of 85 with falling eyesight, a frail, stooping figure and a halo of copper hair yesterday posed the greatest threat to the new Labour leadership so far.

When Baroness Castle of Blackburn took to the platform to a standing ovation, she remained new Labour for a moment of what it had left behind.

Ostensibly she was talking about better rights for pensioners, but Lady Castle, using flaming oratory, was arguing for another era when the likes of Harriet Harman were still wearing dungarees rather than power suits.

She could hardly be seen over the rostrum, but she had lost none of the feistiness she had as a Cabinet minister

and was the perfect heroine for the cloth caps and pensioners. "I believe that good debate only stimulates democracy," she said and Tony Blair groaned. "I am a simple Yorkshire girl," she added, then savaged a wining Gordon Brown.

Lady Castle was well prepared for her fightback. The night before, dressed in a shocking orange jacket, she had led the Tribune rally enthusiastically evoking the name of old heroes such as Nye Bevan and talking about universal rights. "They are misery merchants, people who say we cannot afford to help the poor and elderly," she said.

She has no spin-doctors or aides, but relies instead on stiff gin and bitter lemon, cigarettes and a proper Blackpool breakfast. When a young man offered to help her onto the stage, she retorted: "I'm

not dead yet," hunched up her skin and showed a shapely leg.

He began at 7am speaking to breakfast television and flirting with the camera crews before going to have her hair set. She had a nap after lunch, excusing herself as being "a little tired" but she was revelling in her fight for a restoration of a link between pensions and earnings. In one week she has appeared on Breakfast with Frost, seen on the Newsnight crew and done ten radio interviews. The Shadow Chancellor has tried in vain to woo her over drinks. Ms Harman has tea with her to explain that her proposals would cost £5 billion. But as soon as Lady Castle arrived in Blackpool she declared: "This is war. They are fighting dirty because they are frightened."

Labour promised to cut class sizes in Scottish primary schools and abolish the Government's nursery voucher scheme. Helen Liddell, Scottish education spokesman, said there would be a nursery place for every child.

**Today's business**

Morning: Joan Bakewell and Clare Short on foreign affairs and overseas development; Alan Rusbridger and Steve Shaw on health affairs; Mo Mowlam on Northern Ireland; George Robertson and Ron Davies on devolution; Tom Clarke on civil rights for the disabled.

**HIGHSCREEN P133 FOR LIGHT SPEED PERFORMANCE**

- Intel Pentium® processor 133 MHz
- 8 Mb EDO RAM standard (expandable)
- 1.2 GB hard disk drive
- 16 BIT Stereo sound card
- 4 speed CD-ROM drive
- 12 months on-site warranty (extendable to 3 years)
- FREE Software INCLUDED
- 14" Super VGA 0.28 mm-interlaced colour screen with built-in speakers

or Choose the 15" Super VGA and twin speakers  
FOR ONLY £1299

**BUY NOW PAY APRIL '97 AT RYMAN**

**HIGHSCREEN P133 MULTIMEDIA MINITOWER**

ONLY £1199 INCL V.A.T.  
FREE SOFTWARE BUNDLES

**Ryman**  
LONDON COMPUTER CENTRE

CALL FREE  
0800 801 901  
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE

Terms and Conditions: Products shown are representative only. All offers subject to availability. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press. Subject to April, subject to status, pay a minimum 125 deposit. Minimum term 12 months. Maximum payment of £145 by direct debit. Contributions to the balance by monthly instalments of £1,244.29 APR 22.7%. The direct debit mandate, interest will be charged from the last payment date: the balance of £1,244.29 will be paid in full by April 1997. A flexible Credit Account is available to applicants over the age of 18 subject to a £1,000 credit limit. A flexible Credit Account is issued by Midland Bank plc, 100 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AB. Tel: 0181 547 3000. Payment APR 22.7%. Whichever quotation or offer is accepted may not be valid with cash-back deals and/or promotional offers. Excludes purchases made online. © 1996 Hewlett-Packard. HP and Hewlett-Packard are registered trademarks of Hewlett-Packard Company. All other products and services mentioned are trademarks of their respective companies. E&OE. The logo, trade name and Hewlett-Packard are registered trademarks of the Hewlett-Packard Company.



## Heroine who revels in face of strife

By ALICE THOMSON

POLITICAL REPORTER

A WOMAN of 85 with falling eyesight, a frail, stooping figure and a halo of copper hair yesterday posed the greatest threat to the new Labour leadership so far.

When Baroness Castle of Blackburn took to the platform to a standing ovation, she remained new Labour for a moment of what it had left behind.

Ostensibly she was talking about better rights for pensioners, but Lady Castle, using flaming oratory, was arguing for another era when the likes of Harriet Harman were still wearing dungarees rather than power suits.

She could hardly be seen over the rostrum, but she had lost none of the feistiness she had as a Cabinet minister

and was the perfect heroine for the cloth caps and pensioners. "I believe that good debate only stimulates democracy," she said and Tony Blair groaned. "I am a simple Yorkshire girl," she added, then savaged a wining Gordon Brown.

Lady Castle was well prepared for her fightback. The night before, dressed in a shocking orange jacket, she had led the Tribune rally enthusiastically evoking the name of old heroes such as Nye Bevan and talking about universal rights.

"They are misery merchants, people who say we cannot afford to help the poor and elderly," she said.

She has no spin-doctors or aides, but relies instead on stiff gin and bitter lemon, cigarettes and a proper Blackpool breakfast.

When a young man offered to help her onto the stage, she retorted: "I'm

not dead yet," hunched up her skin and showed a shapely leg.

He began at 7am speaking to breakfast television and flirting with the camera crews before going to have her hair set.

She had a nap after lunch, excusing herself as being "a little tired" but she was revelling in her fight for a restoration of a link between pensions and earnings.

Labour promised to cut class sizes in Scottish primary schools and abolish the Government's nursery voucher scheme.

Helen Liddell, Scottish education spokesman, said there would be a nursery place for every child.

**Today's business**

Morning: Joan Bakewell and Clare Short on foreign affairs and overseas development; Alan Rusbridger and Steve Shaw on health affairs; Mo Mowlam on Northern Ireland; George Robertson and Ron Davies on devolution; Tom Clarke on civil rights for the disabled.

**Meet Mike and Liz**

**Mike and Liz have a brochure**

**that will help them choose the right home.**

**Mike and Liz have just spent over three years in a poky little flat with no garden (Mike's constant gripe). Understandably, they are more ready to move, which is why they asked for a copy of Midland's free brochure called "Choosing your home".**

**It's a practical guide that takes you through the whole process of choosing a place, from assessing the neighbourhood to planning and maintaining a garden (Mike's favourite page).**

**For a copy call 0800 100 129. Lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

**They called 0800 100 129.**

**For further details please complete the coupon and send to: "Choosing your home" brochure, FREEPOST BS4325, Bristol, BS1 3YX.**

**Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Town \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_**

**Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mobile \_\_\_\_\_**

**E-mail \_\_\_\_\_**

**Fax \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mobile \_\_\_\_\_**

Government league tables 'unjust'

## Private schools to chart success with less able pupils

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT head teachers voted yesterday to introduce tests for all new pupils aged 11 or 13 to allow the achievements of schools working with less able students to be recognised.

The Headmasters' Conference believes that the Government's examination league tables are unjust. It is concerned that while highly academic schools such as Eton College, St Paul's School and Westminster School regularly top the tables, based on A-level and GCSE grades, middle-ranking schools are downgraded in comparison, even though they might have helped less able pupils to make rapid progress.

The concerns of the conference, which represents 250 of the country's most exclusive private schools, echo those of teachers in state schools, who say that government league tables fail to reflect the achievements of inner city schools coping with pupils from deprived backgrounds.

The Secondary Heads' Association, which represents state school heads, has asked for details of the tests.

A single 45-minute test which could be used to predict GCSE grades in every subject is being developed for the Headmasters' Conference by the Curriculum, Evaluation and Management Centre at Durham University. It will be taken by all new pupils aged 11 or 13 and the results used as a baseline to show the "value" that schools add to pupils' performances.

Tony Evans, chairman of the conference and head of Portsmouth Grammar School, denied the plan was merely a way of attracting public money for low-ranking schools struggling to attract pupils. "There is a genuine concern for justice," he said. "We are very interested in

Students at Exeter University are being offered smartcards in an experiment to make the campus cash-free. The photocard acts as a phonecard and a discount card at university shops and allows access to halls of residence. Students put up to £50 into an account for the Mondeux card, run by NatWest bank, which lets users pay for goods or services until the money runs out.

seeing the value we ourselves add to pupils' performance. Tables as they are currently construed and presented are not just to the labours of the individual schools and their pupils."

John Moore, head of King's School, Worcester, and chairman of the conference's academic policy committee, said:

"It is fairer to all schools to take into account the ability of the material they receive and to judge what they do with it, rather than judge something very predictable."

"We could all write down the top schools in August, based on raw results, before the results come out. If you have a well-designed value-added test, there should be equal opportunity to do well."

The tests will not be compulsory but no schools opposed the system in a vote by head teachers at the conference's annual meeting in Glasgow yesterday. In practice, the most academically successful schools will still feature at the top of a table based on grades, alongside a table likely to be headed by less selective schools which have been able to "bring on" less able pupils.

The 12,000 11-year-olds and 23,000 13-year-olds expected to join conference schools next September will take the inau-



Cutting edge: Lord Gowrie yesterday, condemning the "Ministry of No"

## Gowrie attacks Treasury plan to cut arts grant

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LORD GOWRIE, the chairman of the Arts Council, yesterday attacked government plans to cut its grant for 1997-98 by at least £3.2 million. He described the Treasury, which he said had informally warned the council of the cut, as "the Ministry of No".

Lord Gowrie spoke of feeling "sorrow and anxiety" over the situation. He said: "The Treasury is cunningly and wrongly using the fig-leaf of the lottery to do this."

He said there was "confusion in the public mind — expertly exploited by the Treasury — between the rules that govern the lottery awards and the rules that govern the grants that we make for the support of the arts with money from Parliament".

Carol Fitz-Gibbon, centre director, said: "The test will consist of mathematics, vocabulary and various non-verbal activities, for example, how quickly can you match errors in spelling and symbols."

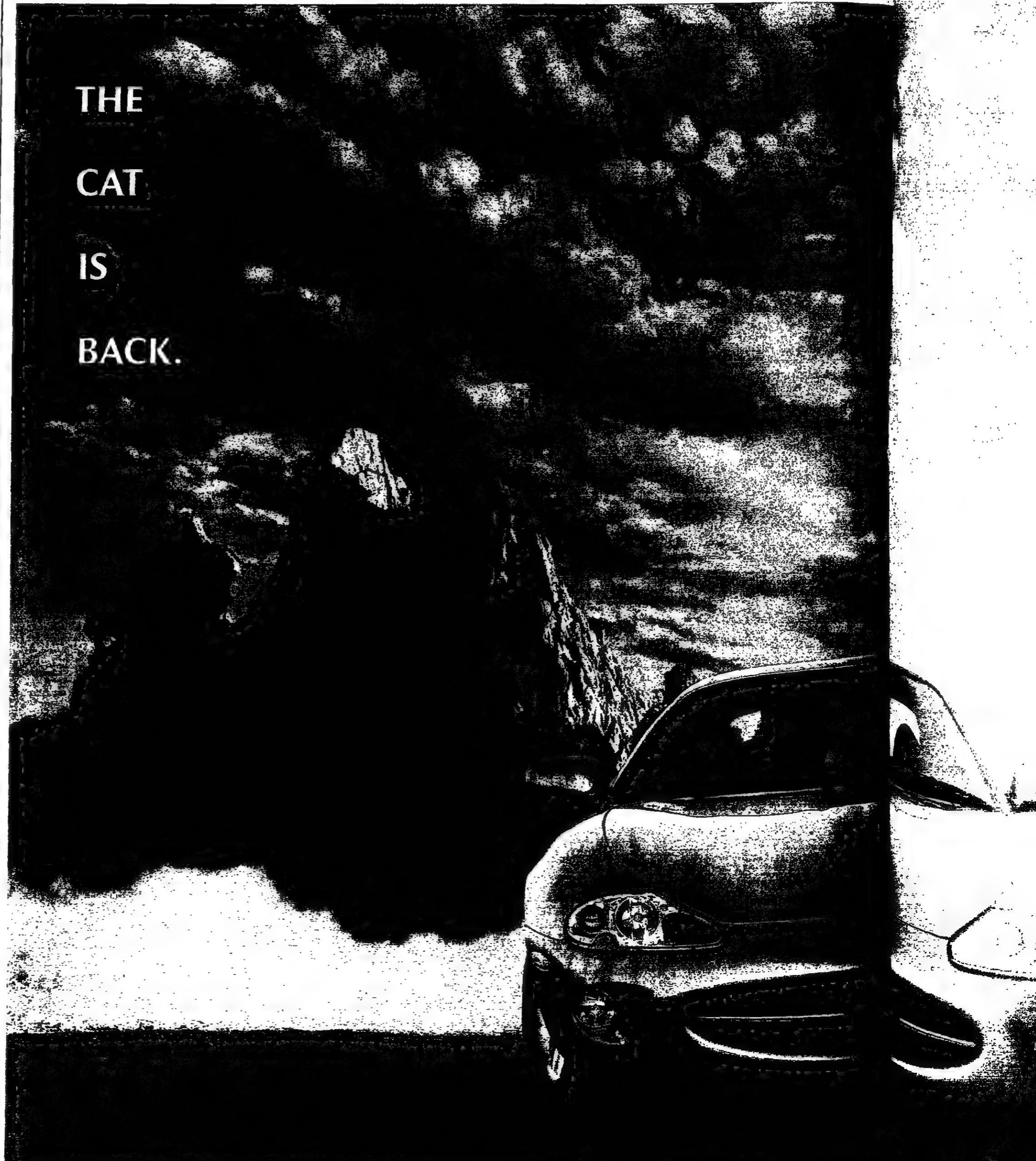
"We can build shining new

palaces of culture, but we cannot fund what goes on inside them," Lord Gowrie said. "Now the Arts Council is not only being cut in real terms; it is being cut in cash terms."

The council's grant for 1996-97 is £186.13 million, which represents a reduction in real terms of 9 per cent since 1992-93. Mary Allen, the council's secretary-general, said that arts groups would close if public support dwindled any further. She said that many groups were already on the brink of collapse and some had cut back their activities so drastically that there would soon be little left to justify a grant.

"The outcome will be extremely damaging," she said, adding that galleries were having to raise sponsorship to pay for staff as well as programmes because public funds did not go far enough. She said: "What the Government always said would not happen is happening. Sponsorship is no longer the icing on the cake but the crucial part."

THE  
CAT  
IS  
BACK.



Beneath its skin, the new Jaguar XK8 flexes muscles never seen before. It has 32 valves. It develops 290 bhp. It's the finest



McLaren: set up contest for today's composers

## Banker's contest is investment in future of music

By DALYA ALBERGE

AN INVESTMENT banker who describes himself as "just a music lover" has set out to transform the public perception of contemporary music.

John McLaren, a director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in London, has brought together leading musicians to establish the Masterpiece international competition for composition.

Noting how few new pieces were being regularly performed and how few contemporary concerts he had ever attended, he decided that something had to be done. "Right now, too little music is winning enough hearts and minds to secure an assured place in the world repertoire," he said.

The winner will be awarded £25,000 and an EMI recording release, and the 15 shortlisted works will be broadcast around the world. The public will not only have the chance to familiarise themselves with the new sounds but be able to vote for their favourite — along with the celebrity jurors, who are yet to be named.

The great cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich is to be the patron. "This idea has touched my heart very deeply," he said. Performance of their work was vital to composers without it "it is a composer's death", he said. "Music is an expression of the human soul — and new music is its lifeblood to us, the performers."

The 15 shortlisted composers will have their work performed by the BBC orchestra. The work of the final six will be performed by the

London Symphony Orchestra under Daniel Harding, the 21-year-old wonderkind conductor, at a gala concert at the Barbican in April 1998 and distributed as a CD with 200,000 copies of BBC Music Magazine. The organisers are seeking a "genuine popular element".

"Unless people hear a work more than once, it won't work," Mr McLaren said. The competition was intended to encourage "the writing of music that has a lasting appeal — rather than for a coterie of contemporary music fans".

Composers of any age and from any country can enter. They must submit a work for full symphony forces lasting eight to twelve minutes that has not been published, broadcast or sold as a recording. The identity of the entrants will initially be kept from the jurors. Tippett could enter," Mr McLaren said. "If he happened not to be chosen, it could remain his private matter."

Private donors have made the venture possible and negotiations are under way with sponsors.

Cathy Graham, executive director of the Society for the Promotion of New Music, welcomed the initiative. "People may not like a work after one hearing but they may like it after ten," she said. "Quality work needs more time. This is extremely exciting, important for really raising the profile of contemporary music. There may be superb pieces that haven't been discovered yet."

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

# Taleban troops mass for attack on tunnel

**TALEBAN** Islamic soldiers are massed at the mouth of the strategic Salang Tunnel in northern Afghanistan, waiting in high spirits for the order to march. These are the "holy warriors" who have conquered most of the country in barely two years: they are fired with a sense of invincibility.

A heavy machinegun points into the highway tunnel. Heavy guns stare down from the surrounding Hindu Kush mountains. Just beyond the other end, 16 miles away, the forces of General Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord of the north, are waiting. The two sides are locked in negotiations to avoid fighting: if there is war, it will be intense.

Taleban's immediate target is not General Dostum. The dream of these ragged, black-turbaned fighters is to destroy utterly the forces of the Government they ousted from Kabul a week ago.

The vanquished army of Tajiks, led by Ahmed Shah Masood, the military chief of the toppled regime, has retreated to its traditional stronghold in the Panjshir



Christopher Thomas at the Salang tunnel, left, highlights its vital military role in winter, linking north and south Afghanistan

Valley, 30 miles beyond the tunnel to the northeast. Some Taleban forces have swept in a wide arc round the tunnel and have reached the entrance to Panjshir, where skirmishes have already taken place.

Lorryloads of extra Taleban troops poured north along the Salang highway from Kabul yesterday to reinforce the 6,000 men at the tunnel. The delay is agonising for the boisterous fighters.

The road is littered with the hulks of Russian T64 tanks, monuments to the victory by American-backed Mujahidin against the Soviet Union, whose last troops left in April 1989. Many of those former Mujahidin are now preparing to fight for their lives in the Panjshir. Such are the twists and turns of Afghan conflict.

Mullah Lambat, 35, a Taleban commander at the tunnel, is confident of swift victory over the government forces. "We can defeat them in two days. All we need is the order to go ahead." One day he would lay down his guns, but not until Afghanistan was united under Taleban and faithful to Islam.

Such is Taleban's morale: a far cry from the exhausted, war-weary government soldiers, tens of thousands of whom have abandoned General Masood, whose exploits in the guerrilla war against the Russians are legendary. He captured Kabul in April 1992, only to lose it 52 months later. Now he is fighting to stop his army disintegrating.

Taleban has reinforced its firepower with captured government weapons. The small town of Wolang, two miles

from the tunnel, is being used as a garrison and looks like a bazaar for Kalashnikovs, machineguns, rocket launchers and artillery.

This is bleak country: treeless, waterless and rocky, and already cold at night as winter approaches rapidly. In a month or two the entire area will be under several feet of snow. The Salang highway will then be the only direct link between north and south, making the tunnel a vital military objective.

Taleban soldiers spend their days cleaning weapons, lounging in commandeer houses and trudging endlessly with walkie-talkies. They are itching to hear the order from Taleban headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar to press on to Panjshir. That will not happen until negotiations

with General Dostum are complete. He is doubtless powerful enough to block their advance and he has the option of blasting the tunnel's northern mouth.

Taleban commanders have

no doubt that their men will, in due course, take over the five or six provinces under General Dostum's control. "He can lay down his guns

and live in peace or we will attack," said Mullah Lambat, a veteran of the guerrilla war against the Soviet Union. He has spent 17 years at war. His fighters are young, teenagers mostly, all filled with the romance and glory of jihad. They forget that General Masood, with tonnes of shells and ammunition in his armoury, might spring some

bloody surprises. He has already blocked the road into Panjshir by starting a landslide with explosives. Taleban commanders know he will not be defeated easily, for all the bravado of the commanders and the young fighters at the front line.

As talks continue, General Dostum and Taleban are allowing normal traffic through

the tunnel. Lorryloads of melons and onions move south; decrepit buses bring people fleeing possible fighting; old taxis are laden with people and suitcases.

Everybody knows that Afghanistan's seemingly interminable war is moving towards a decisive battle, be it with General Dostum or General Masood, or both.

The Salang highway, along which Taleban soldiers travelled before massing at the tunnel's southern mouth

PAUL ODOROCOLUPE

## Palme suspect 'tried to murder Nkomo'

FROM JAN RAATH  
IN HARARE

**ANTHONY WHITE**, the former Rhodesian Selous Scout commander alleged to have assassinated Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, in 1986, is wanted by the authorities in Zimbabwe for questioning over ivory smuggling and the unexplained removal of his file from the immigration department, police sources said yesterday.

The interest of Zimbabwe's police and national parks departments in Mr White further muddies the background of the marauder and explosives expert named this week by Dirk Coetzee, the South African death-squad chief as Palme's killer. Mr White has denied the claim.

Known to friends as "An", Mr White became a lesser Southern African legend in the late 1970s for three alleged attempts to assassinate Joshua Nkomo, then head of a guerrilla movement fighting the Rhodesian Government.

Mr White, it is claimed, was sent to the Zambian port of Beira, where Mr White runs a small factory, say there is no hint that he is involved in anything but his busy hardware furniture export business. "This is a small town, and we know who the cowboys and the hoodlums are," said one businessman, who asked not to be named.

White wanted by police in his native Zimbabwe

positioning the car along a route he expected Mr Nkomo to use, intending to detonate it from a safe distance as the nationalist leader passed. But each day, Mr Nkomo took a different route and Mr White returned home after Lusaka muggers broke his pose.

In April 1979 Mr White was allegedly part of a commando unit flown to Lusaka twice to launch a military assault on Mr Nkomo's home.

Business associates in the Mozambican port of Beira, where Mr White runs a small factory, say there is no hint that he is involved in anything but his busy hardware furniture export business. "This is a small town, and we know who the cowboys and the hoodlums are," said one businessman, who asked not to be named.

### SENSIBLE LOANS

from  
**13.8% APR**

DON'T LET HIGH INTEREST RATES CRAMP YOUR STYLE

DO TALK TO COLONIAL DIRECT About a manageable way to repay your current loans

- APRs from as low as 13.8%\*
- £1,000 - £15,000
- Arranged over the phone
- No security required
- Guaranteed interest rate - repayments will not increase during the loan period
- Payment protection cover can be built in

A Loan of £5000	
	48 Monthly Repayments with Payment Protection
Colonial Direct	£162.80
JSA	£186.26
Next	£163.34
HPC Bank	£162.57
	£194.34
	£141.00
	£145.61
	£147.70

Rates correct as of 9.9.95 and based on the lender's published rates. Typical example if you wish to borrow £5,000 from Colonial Direct over 48 months, the monthly payment will be £162.80 inclusive of £24.46 credit protection insurance. Total repayment over loan term £7,514.40. The APR of 13.8% applies to the loan repayment.

Colonial  
DIRECT

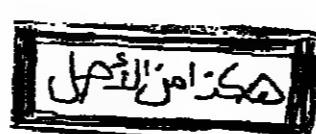
Now we're talking Loans

0800 828 300

Colonial Direct is a trading name of Colonial Mutual Group UK Management Limited. All loans are subject to status and are not available to everyone. Loans are provided by Colonial Finance (UK) Limited which assumed the right to decline any application. The rate table is for guidance purposes only. A written quotation is available on request from Colonial Direct, Cleopatra Lane, LE10 1LS. Credit protection insurance is underwritten by ITT London & Edinburgh.

**JAGUAR XK8**  
DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.

4.0 litre V8 production engine ever released. To find out more, just call 0800 70 80 60.



# Nobel old boys' club wins no prize for courage

BY ROGER BOYES

THE Swedish Academy, which will announce today the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, is a deeply divided club dominated by squabbling professors, lexicologists and introspective writers.

That is the judgement of many Swedish literary critics and some of the academicians themselves. Knut Ahnlund, the literary historian, has been boycotting its regular Thursday meetings in protest at its failure to condemn Iran's fatwa against Salman Rushdie, the author of *Satanic Verses*. Three dissidents have condemned its cowardice. Others complain that some members are too closely associated with publishing houses that profit from the award.

The prize, worth 7.4 million Swedish kroner (£705,000), is the world's most coveted award for writers. Yet the decision-making is odd, almost random, compared to the reading marathon and detailed shuffles involved in the Booker Prize.

Of the 18 academicians, six are professors with an apparent preference for Scandinavian writers. The secretary of the academy — its public persona — is Professor Sten Allen, whose main contribution to literature was a computer study of the frequency of the words *in*, *that*, *from*, *how*, *is* and *the* in the Swedish language.

Dr Allen is an able enough administrator, but he has been the butt of the dissidents with his insistence that the academy must steer clear of political statements, thus abandoning Rushdie's cause. The academy is, in fact, highly political. It is in the middle of an argument with Stockholm city council about controversial traffic-flow plans, and at least one key judge, Kjell Espmark, is a sharp critic of the Swedish social welfare state. His novels often contain barely veiled attacks on Olof Palme, the late Swedish Prime Minister.

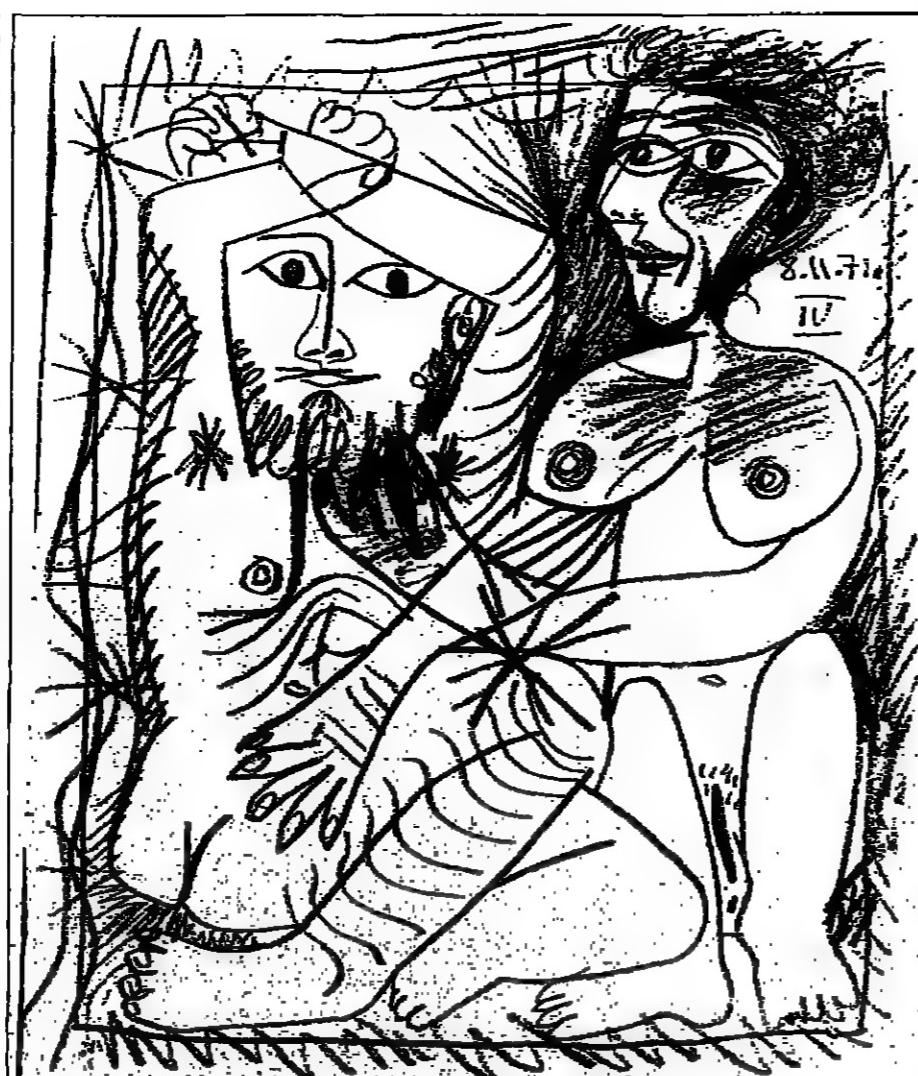
The Chinese favourite to win the prize this year, poet Bei Dao, probably owes his place on the shortlist to Göran Malmquist, the Sinologist regarded as one of the most dynamic members of the academy. He has been a loud campaigner against the mass killings of pro-democracy protesters in Peking's Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

A study of the academy's past winners, however, suggests that poets are unlikely to be honoured in consecutive years. Last year Seamus Heaney, the Irish poet, won the award.

For the same reason, an English-speaking writer is also unlikely to win this year. This would seem to rule out a surprise victory for Bob Dylan, the rock songwriter and musician, whose name has been put forward by an American professor.

The breakdown of the voting will not be known for 50 years because the academy is almost as jealous of its secrets as is the Vatican. The idea is to maintain the traditions of the academy set up in 1785 by King Gustav III. But the effect of so much social conservatism is a preponderance of rather academic judges such as Johannes Edfeldt, 92, whose literary breakthrough came with a novel entitled *High Mass* written in 1934. The average age of the judges is 72, and membership of the academy is assumed to end only on the deathbed.

**Stockholm:** A group of Russian soldiers' mothers which has campaigned for better conditions in the military was among four winners yesterday of the Right Livelihood Award, Sweden's so-called "alternative Nobel". Other winners were Herman Daly, an American economist; George Vithoulkas, a Greek homeopathic physician; and the Indian group, Science Writers' Forum of Kerala. Mr Daly's award carries no purse; the other three winners share \$250,000 (£160,000). (AP)



Two of the Picasso drawings, among the last works completed by the artist, included in the exhibition opening in Milan today. Experts have rejected doubts over their authenticity



## 'Kama Sutra' drawings reveal Picasso as lusty nonagenarian

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN MILAN

THE organisers of a controversial exhibition of late erotic art by Picasso yesterday dismissed doubts over the authenticity of some of the drawings, saying the collection — the last drawings completed by the artist before his death in 1973, aged 92 — was a "poetic hymn to life".

The drawings go on show today at a newly opened arts centre in a renovated 19th-century palace ad-

joining La Scala theatre in Milan. They are certainly testimony to the triumph of a lust for life over old age. "Picasso was an extraordinary force of nature," *La Repubblica* said. "It was thought everything that could be said about him had been said — but apparently not. This is a vital and unashamed Kama Sutra."

The collection was given by Picasso to his chauffeur, Maurice Bresnu, who in the great painter's final six years became his factotum and confidant. Picasso called him

"Nounours" (roughly, teddy bear). Some art experts have hinted that Bresnu, who died in 1991, took advantage of Picasso in his dotage, knowing that any doodle by the master would have a high value. But witnesses have spoken of the artist's affection for Bresnu and his wife, Jacqueline.

Some of the 105 drawings carry a signature which experts say does not resemble the normal Picasso one. Asked to explain this yesterday, Beniamino Levi, director of the Stra-

ton Foundation of Lugano, which owns the collection, said Bresnu and his wife had continued to live in Picasso's house after his death.

"It is possible — I have no way of knowing, but it is possible — that Jacqueline, say, signed some of the drawings with Picasso's name after his death," Signor Levi said. Jacqueline committed suicide in 1992. "But there is absolutely no question mark over either the provenance or the authenticity of the drawings," Signor Levi said. He said that Picasso did

not normally sign his work except when he was selling it.

The works have been authenticated by Picasso's daughter, Maya, who describes in the catalogue her "intense emotions" on seeing the drawings, which she describes as a mark of her father's "humour and audacity" at the end of his life.

□ *Picasso: The Hidden Collection* is open to the public until January 6, 1997, at the Trussardi Foundation Gallery, *Marina alla Scala Art Centre*, Milan.

## Bomb threats to Austrian leaders

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

SECURITY has been stepped up for Austrian and German politicians after threats by a small terrorist group to send letter bombs to eight prominent decision-makers.

According to one report, President Clinton figures on a target list that was sent to a

magazine by a group calling itself the Bavarian Liberation Army (BLA), but the main threat is perceived to be against Austrian politicians in the run-up to the elections on October 13 for the European Parliament.

The threats are being taken seriously since the BLA — which wants to reunite the German-speaking peoples of

Bavaria, the Alps and along the Danube — has claimed responsibility for more than 20 letter-bomb attacks in the past three years. All have been directed at foreigners or at prominent people associated with refugee issues, and 11 people have been injured.

Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, is among those with extra police protection.

## Ballot fraud in Armenia

WARSAW: There were 22,013 too many votes in Armenia's polls won by President Ter-Petrosian, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which monitored the election, said yesterday. He won by 21,941 votes. Most extra votes were in Yerevan, the capital. (AFP)

## Nepal offers cows haven

GENEVA: A Nepalese Hindu organisation has offered to adopt 230,000 Swiss cows doomed for slaughter amid efforts to eradicate the spread of "mad cow" disease. In a letter released yesterday, the World Hindu Federation offered to save the condemned animals condition that the Swiss Government pay it the £165 million it

**Every week thousands of people are coming to Direct Line for a cheaper mortgage.**

(The table below will show you how much cheaper).

From the table you can see that coming to Direct Line for your mortgage could save you around £50\* a month. But that's not the only reason that every week thousands of people from all over Britain are coming to Direct Line. Whether you're moving house or simply moving your mortgage, there are no arrangement or survey fees. Mortgages are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is lower and there is no mortgage indemnity premium to

pay. We don't charge early redemption fees either. If you're moving your mortgage call us before 14th October 1996, complete the transfer using our solicitors package and we'll even pay your legal fees and guarantee you a saving of 20%\* on your existing buildings insurance.

Call Direct Line today and find out how much money the leading light in mortgage lenders could save you.



**Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).**  
Lender APR (%) Monthly Repayments (after tax relief) Monthly saving with Direct Line Total Payable  
**WOOLWICH** 7.4% £545.35 £48.95 £163,005  
**HALIFAX** 7.4% £545.35 £48.95 £163,405  
**ABBEY NATIONAL** 7.4% £545.34 £48.94 £163,402  
**DIRECT LINE** 6.2% £495.49 — £146,928  
\*APR based on Standard Variable Rate repayment mortgage, correct as 16th September 1996. PRIBAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may alter.

**0181 649 9099      0161 831 9099      0141 221 9099      0141 221 9099**  
**LONDON      MANCHESTER      GLASGOW**

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT49

Internet address: <http://www.directline.co.uk>

Mortgages provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 25 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £300,000 are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is the lower. Applicants must be aged 18 to 62 and Direct Line Financial Services Limited reserves the right to decline any application. Life assurance to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first charge over the property is required. Some properties will not be accepted for finance. The property must be fully owned for the term of the mortgage. The maximum term of the mortgage is 25 years. The minimum amount of the borrowing on the mortgage is £10,000. Direct Line will pay the legal fees only where the mortgagee on the mortgage is the borrower. If you decide to use your own solicitor to carry out the work involved in the transfer of your mortgage and the legal amount to more than £200, Direct Line will pay the difference up to a maximum of £200. Written quotations and applications for second mortgages may require payment of a fee on the existing lender when being transferred. The maximum amount of the second mortgage will be £100,000 and is subject to other normal underwriting criteria and corresponding levels of cover. For your added security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Direct Line and the red telephone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.

**Face Value Offer**

The Queen's Official 70th Birthday Coin

**Change £5 for £5**

**First Time Buyers Only**

### Sensational issue!

On April 21st, 1996 Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 70th Birthday. The Royal Mint has marked this special day with a new £5 commemorative coin.

For admirers of the Royal Family, this is one of the most important coins ever issued: a must for everyone!

**Order your coin now to avoid disappointment!**

RHM The Crown Collections Limited, P.O. Box 129, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1AT Reg. No. 26728 H

### First Time Buyer Order Form

p&p free!

Yes, I am a first time buyer. Please order the new "70th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II" £5 commemorative coin for me at the face value issue price of £5. I will receive it free of p&p on 10 days' approval, during which time I may return it for a full refund. (Order No. 40622-105).

Mr/Mrs/Miss:

82334

Address:

Postcode:

Only one coin allowed per household. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. All orders are subject to acceptance.

**MDM**

The Crown Collections Limited  
P.O. Box 129, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 1AY  
International Royal Mint Distributor

# Computer blamed as 70 are killed in Peru jet crash

BY QUENTIN LETTS

ALL seventy people on board a Peruvian jetliner were feared dead after it crashed early yesterday in the Pacific, not far from the capital, Lima.

Mechanical trouble had been reported by the pilot before the accident and conditions were foggy. Aeroperu's Flight 603 disappeared from radio and radar contact at 11.0am local time, almost half an hour after taking off from Lima bound for Santiago, Chile. The pilot said that he was turning back to Lima and requested an emergency landing.

Elsa Carrera de Escalante, the Peruvian Transport Minister, said computer failure appeared to have been the cause. "We have listened to the recordings of the pilot," she said. "It seems there was a

blockage in the computer system."

Navy patrol boats found wreckage from the plane in the sea, 40 miles west of the resort of Ancon, said Admiral Jaime Monge, head of navy rescue operations. Ancon is 42 miles north of Lima.

Emergency rescue workers stood in vain on the Pacific shore, shining lights out to sea in the hope of attracting the attention of survivors. "The only possibility is for survivors to direct themselves towards the light," said Juan Pipers, a spokesman for the local fire brigade.

Visibility was down to 30ft, and in the icy waters of the Humboldt current, which flows up the Peruvian coast from Antarctica, no survivors were expected. Some lights

from the plane itself and a sheen of oil were said to have been seen on the surface of the sea by naval and police helicopters.

A local fisherman, Jesus Herrera, reported hearing a noise in the night. Soon afterwards his beach shack was flooded by a large wave.

The aircraft was a comparatively new Boeing 757, thought to have been leased from Aeroperu's Mexican parent company. It was the third recent air disaster to involve a jet of this type.

The plane, which had a capacity of 180 people, was carrying 61 passengers and a crew of nine. The nationality of those on board was not immediately known, an official at Aeroperu's Manhattan offices said, but television reports stated that four of the missing were Americans.

Flight 603 originated in New York before stopping at Miami. Passengers changed planes at Lima.

The jet took off from Lima at 12.42am and the pilot reported mechanical difficulties about five minutes later, according to early reports.

The crash was the first in the history of Aeroperu, which was founded in the early 1970s and is a private company. It was originally government-owned.



Sally Gunnell with Hadelino Isidro, II, at Kuito, where she met landmine victims



## Track star backs ban on mines

FROM ADRIAN BROOKS  
IN HUAMBO, ANGOLA

ONE wrong step and a sporting career could have been ruined. For Sally Gunnell, the former Olympic 400m champion and the latest recruit to an international campaign to ban landmines, witnessing the crippling effects of the weapon of war in Angola was nerve-racking.

Last week she was led through a minefield to watch a controlled explosion. She said: "You only had to put one foot wrong. Five days ago, I didn't even know what a mine looked like or the terrible injuries they can inflict." Earlier, she had toured the Médecins sans Frontières hospital in Kuito, where she met mine victims. Gunnell's visit was part of the campaign to outlaw mines. Today a conference devoted to the issue opens in Ottawa.

## Murder adds to Korean tension

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL  
IN MOSCOW AND  
ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

SOUTH KOREA tentatively pointed the finger at North Korea for the murder of its consul in Vladivostok yesterday, straining further relations between the two countries, already at their worst for several years.

The body of Choi Duck Keun was found on Tuesday night on the staircase of his apartment block in the Russian city. He had been bludgeoned on the back of the head and his stomach had been slit.

Gangs are in a perpetual state of war in the maddening eastern city and police refused to comment on yet another killing. But the consul's murder was unlikely to be a simple mugging as his wallet and passport had not been taken.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman acknowledged Mr Choi had been in charge of intelligence gathering on North Korea, making him an obvious target. "We can't rule out the possibility that North Korea could be involved," he said. Seoul is sending investigators to work with Russian police.

In the past two weeks, the Koreas have been embroiled in one of their worst confrontations for years after the landing of spies from a North Korean submarine in the South. Twenty-two North Koreans from the vessel have since been killed.

North Korean army officers threatened their southern neighbours at a meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom yesterday, saying "that serious consequences which would be announced would occur as a result of the deaths of their soldiers", a United Nations spokesman said. Lee Yang Ho, the South Korean Defence Minister, said Seoul might have to gird itself for war.

The submarine incident and the murder have caused alarm and raised questions about how long the 43-year stalemate, a result of the Korean War, can continue.

## Patten challenges China to safeguard Hong Kong's freedoms

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY  
IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, Hong Kong's twenty-eighth and last Governor, yesterday gave a challenging final policy address to the Legislative Council. Peking will appoint its own council in 1997 and Mr Patten's vision of Hong Kong's future was bleak. He laid down 16 "benchmarks" by which it will be judged internationally under Chinese rule. Freedom of the press and

assembly and an "openly elected legislature", for example, are likely to be explosive issues once the colony is handed over.

The Governor said Hong Kong's strength to date stemmed from the "hard work and skill of its Chinese men and women", but also of British "stewardship" which had brought the rule of law, a meritocratic Civil Service, and the openness to ideas and people that "lies at the heart of Hong Kong's success".

Mr Patten said that during the final

nine months of British rule the Government was not "going into hibernation... we still have plenty to do", but he soon issued sombre warnings. If things went well in Hong Kong, he said, they would make China's problems lighter. "And the reverse is true," he said.

The relationship between China and Hong Kong which he said would soon be the richest Chinese city, "goes to the heart of what sort of country China is in the next century and how it plays its role in

the region and the world". The colony seemed to be "a superb meteor... rather than a sleepy and permanent planet".

He saved his direst warnings for the Legislative Council (LegCo), whose election last year lies at the core of Peking's hatred of the Governor and of the crisis in Sino-British relations since he was appointed in 1992. Peking claims that the council violated treaty agreements between the British and Chinese, and vows to replace it

next year by a body handpicked by China. That "provisional LegCo" will legislate in competition with the existing council.

For the first time, Mr Patten came close yesterday to saying that such a body would be illegal. He declared: "The role of this institution, its credibility and legitimacy, lies at the heart of wider doubts about the future of pluralism and freedom in Hong Kong."

The present elected council, he said, "has been and will remain a

potent symbol of what sort of society Hong Kong is today and could and would be tomorrow".

Mr Patten's other "benchmarks" seem equally ominous. These include a free press, freedom of assembly, vigils and demonstrations. Chinese officials have said, however, that certain opinions will be regarded as seditious and it intends to abridge Hong Kong's Bill of Rights.

Leading article, page 21

## The Power in office solutions

*A vision for the office world*

At IKON Office Solutions we have a vision. We see the future of the office world. Now, as the world's largest independent office product supplier, we have the power to deliver today the technology you need for tomorrow.

IKON has the resources to supply everything from a convenience copier right through to high volume printroom systems. We'll give you access to the most efficient and effective communications and document handling systems available, including the latest colour laser copying, digital and multifunctional products, printers and facsimile equipment from the world's top manufacturers. And we have the technological

know-how to link them all into a fully-networked system that's tailor-made for your office.

IKON can also provide the management services to 'outsource' your entire document handling operation, from general printroom services to complex information processing systems.

The strength of a nationwide network combined with our fast, responsive local service means you can rely on IKON to deliver total customer satisfaction. And, with our own group finance and environmentally-friendly copier remanufacturing process, you can trust IKON to turn a vision into reality.

**Call FREE 0800 90.40.90**

**IKON**  
**Office Solutions**

*The symbol of document technology*

# Palestinians fear tank onslaught as Israelis dig in

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 2.2 million Palestinians, resembled a war zone last night with security forces on both sides on alert in anticipation of renewed violence in reaction to the Washington summit. Some Palestinians were sandbagging their homes in fear of an attack by Israeli tanks.

Senior Palestinian officials said that many families were hoarding food in case the failure of the Washington talks to meet expectations sparked more serious clashes than those which left more than 70 people dead and nearly 1,500 wounded last week.

"There is an atmosphere of fear. We are living in a very critical situation," said a senior official in the autonomous West Bank town of Kalkiliya, where residents were protecting their homes with sandbags. "If the tanks enter the city, big losses will take place."

Even before the summit results had been announced, Israeli and Palestinian security sources reported that one Palestinian had been shot dead by Israeli troops in Hebron, the tense city at the centre of the Washington talks, and five others were wounded during two incidents in the West Bank.

Israeli military commanders emphasised that they would not hesitate to use tanks, snipers and Cobra attack helicopters to put down any new armed assaults on their troops or Jewish settlers.

Members of the 30,000-strong Palestinian police were digging new trenches close to Israeli lines around Nablus, the largest West Bank city. Palestinians said factories were working at only 30 per cent capacity because workers from surrounding areas were kept out by Israeli roadblocks.

The Israeli forces, already reinforced by thousands of

men, appeared to be digging in for the long haul. The army was reported to have placed an emergency order for hundreds of special bullet-proof vests from England and armoured protection was being sent to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinian residents are under effective "town arrest".

Major-General Ami'az Sagiv, the chief of the technology and logistics branch, said: "We are preparing for an extended stay. The winter is at the doorstep and we are readying ourselves for it."

In Hebron, Palestinians pelted the Israelis with stones the minute a week-long curfew on the 100,000 Arab inhabitants was lifted briefly to let people buy food. "All leaders are liars," said nine-year-old Maher Natche, one of the stone-throwers. "We will never live in peace with the Jews". As night fell, there were also reports that stones had been

hurled at Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem but Palestinian police, acting on orders from Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, intervened.

A report in *Haaretz*, a Tel Aviv newspaper, by Zeev Schiff, Israel's top military analyst disclosed that the Palestinians are believed by Israeli security sources to have 40,000 weapons in the West Bank and Gaza, a much larger total than previously thought. The arsenal includes AK47 assault rifles and Israeli firearms, either stolen from the Israeli Army over the 27 years of occupation or smuggled in as a result of trading with the

Israeli underworld. Mr Schiff wrote: "According to the Oslo peace agreement, the Palestinian Authority was supposed to collect weapons from civilian hands or register them for use by authorised civilians. The PA did not carry out this part of the agreement."

Such was the tension in an around the six Palestinian towns in the West Bank already handed over to Palestinian control that joint Israeli-Palestinian controls were suspended. "In some cases, the Palestinian police took part in the shooting at Israelis," said Major-General Uzi Dayan, the head of Israel's Central Command.

Hanan Ashrawi, the leading Palestinian spokeswoman, said: "If this summit fails we will face bad consequences, as gloomy reports of progress in Washington spread through the region. Our people do not expect much from the summit."

Diplomats said that in the past, it was normal for Israeli officials not to bother with a jacket or tie. But now, under the snappily attired leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu, the tieless member of the Cabinet is the exception rather than the rule.



Israeli guards check the identity of a Palestinian in Hebron, during a curfew in the West Bank town yesterday

## Clinton gets into a knot over ties

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE sartorial habits of Nathan Sharansky, a key member of the Israeli summit team, raised eyebrows in the White House according to *Maariv*, the Tel Aviv newspaper.

The paper said President Clinton asked the former Soviet dissident, now Trade and Industry Minister, why he had come to the White House without wearing a tie. Mr Sharansky responded without batting an eyelid: "There is a law in Israel, according to which anyone who was incarcerated in a Russian prison for longer than eight years is exempt from putting on a tie." Mr Sharansky had been a guest of the former Soviet gulag for ten years.

*Maariv* said Mr Clinton smiled at the response. Later, when he bumped into the former inmate of Moscow's Lefortovo prison, he again asked Mr Sharansky whether it was his habit to go around without a tie. The minister said it was and "the two shook hands warmly".

Diplomats said that in the past, it was normal for Israeli officials not to bother with a jacket or tie. But now, under the snappily attired leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu, the tieless member of the Cabinet is the exception rather than the rule.

## Simpson case detective charged with perjury

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

MARK FUHRMAN, the detective whose record of racism sabotaged the prosecution of O.J. Simpson, is to be charged with perjury for denying during the Simpson trial that he had used the word "nigger" in the previous ten years. The detective, now an apprentice electrician, was due to be arraigned in Los Angeles yesterday within hours of his perjury charge being made public.

Testifying before a packed Simpson courtroom in March last year, he swore that he had not addressed or spoken of black people as "niggers" in

ten years. Later in the trial, however, a screenwriter who had interviewed Mr Fuhrman submitted tapes on which he used the inflammatory word no fewer than 41 times.

Mr Fuhrman had described on the witness stand finding a crucial bloody glove in Mr Simpson's grounds early on the morning after the murders of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman.

The revelation of his casual racist rhetoric, before a largely black jury, turned a key prosecution witness into a godsend for Mr Simpson's successful defence team.

## Secret report 'shows tobacco conspiracy'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AN AMERICAN congressman has uncovered research by two Britons 32 years ago that he claims is a "smoking gun" to support allegations of a conspiracy among US tobacco manufacturers to hide the dangers of cigarettes.

Martin Meehan, the Massachusetts Democrat and catalyst of a current inquiry into the \$50 billion American tobacco industry, has offered the secret report to the Justice Department as evidence for a federal investigation.

Sir Philip Rogers and Geoffrey Todd, both now dead, were senior members of the

British Research Council who were granted unparalleled access to tobacco executives during a fact-finding mission lasting just over a month.

They revealed that lawyers for cigarette manufacturers assumed control of smoking and health research and concentrated efforts on fighting lawsuits rather than developing safer products.

Michael York, a lawyer for Philip Morris USA, said lawyers worked together all the time to co-ordinate defences and strategy. He called Mr Meehan's allegations "an act of desperation".

**NEW!**

# 5 Years 0% apr.

With only a 10% deposit now

and PAY NOTHING for the first year!

Only £7.50 per month gets you £500 of carpet

Spend £500 or more on carpets with a 10% deposit now and you can get 5 years 0%.\*

**You can choose!**

- How long you want to delay starting your payments from 1 month to 12 months.
- How many payments you want to make up to a total of 60 (5 years).
- How much you pay a month.

The number of months you delay your payments count towards the 60. So if you decide to delay by 5 months you have a maximum of 55 months left to make your repayment.

Once you have decided on the number of months and amount per month, these become fixed and cannot be varied.

**A typical example**

Purchase Price £500. 10% deposit £50. Balance to pay £450. Delay payment by 10 months, then make 50 payments of £9 a month or if you wanted to start paying immediately it would cost £7.50 a month over 60 months.

**Plus**

**1/2 PRICE CARPETS** And many other great savings!

**FREE UNDERLAY** With all Axminster and Wiltons over £19.99\*

Ring 0181 466 4006 for your nearest store

**Allied CARPETS**  
Inspirational Choices for your Home

\*Free Supreme Underlay, £3.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£4.77 per sq.m.) on all Axminster and Wiltons over £19.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£22.99 per sq.m.) £0.84 sq.m. = 1 sq.yd. Free Underlay offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional offer, voucher or discount. Interest free credit and other offers may not be available in all stores. The interest free credit offer is not available in Scotland or Northern Ireland. Subject to status. Written quotations from Allied Carpets, Croydon BR6 0JQ who are licensed credit brokers.



## LONDON TO SCOTLAND

BRITISH AIRWAYS	from £68	CERTAINLY NOT
BRITISH MIDLAND	from £58	CAN'T BE
AIR UK	from £58	SORRY, NO
EASY JET	from £58	TRY AGAIN

IT'S **RYANAIR**  
**£49** Return

Call **RYANAIR DIRECT**  
**0171-435 7101**  
8am - 8pm or contact your local travel agent

**RYANAIR**  
THE LOW FARES AIRLINE

All fares subject to some conditions, availability and Govt taxes. £2 handling charge on all credit card transactions with Ryanair.

# 'Club Med' row threatens EU talks

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS  
AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A BOUT of squabbling between France and Italy heightened concern yesterday that a special European summit this weekend could highlight discord among member states as they strive to design a more coherent, streamlined Union.

While EU leaders shunted around capitals before Saturday's gathering in Dublin, President Chirac of France made little effort to smooth Italian feathers, severely ruffled by an undiplomatic swipe at Rome over its chances of qualifying for monetary union. The Gaullist President's outburst on Tuesday was seen as a forecast of the blunt tactics which his aides say he is planning to employ when the leaders take stock of the limp negotiations to revise the Maastricht treaty.

Only M Chirac wanted the Dublin gathering. John Major, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and others argued

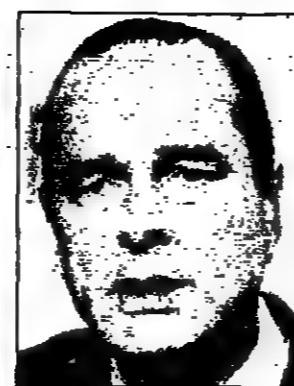


Prodi: warning about cancelling Naples talks

that the informal session risked airing differences while the 15 states remained far apart on ways of revamping the EU to accommodate up to a dozen new members from the East and the South.

Although no formal decisions are due to be made on Saturday, there are also fears that Mr Major could use the gathering at Dublin Castle to restate Britain's resistance to deeper integration three days before the Conservative Party conference. Britain's imminent general election is blamed by the other Union members for the failure of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) to make headway.

M Chirac's remarks on the lira spurred Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, to threaten to call off talks with M Chirac in Naples today. The French President responded by saying he "ardently hoped" Italy would be



Chirac: only EU leader to want Dublin meeting

among the founder members of economic and monetary union (EMU) but the lira must first "catch up" with the franc.

M Chirac praised the austere Italian budget and said the diplomatic row was simply a "misunderstanding", but his testy warning was reaffirmed yesterday by Catherine Colonna, his spokeswoman, who said Italy's ability to join monetary union depended

on secret that we think there is still room for appreciation," she said.

Signor Prodi was in no mood for a fresh quarrel with M Chirac since he had already fallen out this week with Jose Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, who suggested he had tried to soften the EMU criteria. Signor Prodi denied this yesterday.

The bickering among the "Club Med" states underlined the way in which tension over the push for monetary union is eclipsing the effort to finish a new-look Maastricht treaty next June. As the leap to the single currency has acquired the feel of certainty in recent weeks, governments have scrambled to enact draconian budgets for fear of being left on the sidelines when the EMU entrance test is applied in about 18 months' time.

Herr Kohl and M Chirac will be uniting in Dublin to warn colleagues of the dangers of letting the Maastricht review stagnate at a time partly on an early return to the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) is more appropriate rate.

Mme Colonna said the Italian currency had depreciated by 40 per cent against the franc since Italy was ejected from the ERM in 1992, and the cheap lira was seriously damaging French industry. "The movement of the lira in the past year is positive, but it is

when European citizens are taking a more jaundiced view than ever of the Union and its grand monetary scheme. The two "motor" nations are keen to set the pace on such issues as the creation of a stronger EU foreign policy machine and the centralising of control over immigration and crime.

Bonn and Paris have not settled a joint package, but France has watered down its demand for the creation of a foreign policy supremo to act as "Mr Europe".

The two have upset the European Commission and federal-minded states by backing a strengthened policy team in Brussels that would report to the member states, leaving control firmly in government hands. The scheme should be acceptable to Britain.

Wide differences remain, however, on extending majority voting. While Britain flatly opposes any dilution of the veto, France, Germany and other states are reluctant to reveal their hands.



Alain Juppé addresses parliament before yesterday's confidence vote on his spending cuts. The French Prime Minister won comfortably

## Juppé wins backing for austerity

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE French parliament passed a vote of confidence in the Government yesterday against a background of renewed internal criticism aimed at Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, and rumours of a possible early election.

The ruling coalition enjoys a four-fifths majority in the National Assembly and the outcome of the confidence vote by 464 to 100, was never in doubt, but a fresh burst of sniping from M Juppé's coalition partners suggested that yesterday's seal of approval was rather less than "the sincere and frank support in heart and spirit" requested by the

Prime Minister. "1997 will be a year of improvement... perseverance will pay off," he assured MPs as he defended austerity policies aimed at reducing the deficit in time for European monetary union.

M Juppé received a standing ovation from a majority of MPs as he called for the third confidence vote since the Government was elected in May last year. But internal strife within the Centre-Right coalition has prompted reports that President Chirac is considering whether to dissolve parliament and call an early election rather than wait until scheduled elections in March 1998 and face the possibility of sharing power with the Left.

The opposition Socialists have yet to form a credible election platform and an early poll might ensure M Chirac a

continued parliamentary majority, albeit substantially reduced, for the rest of his seven-year term.

The talk of dissolving parliament may be a way to reinforce discipline among rebellious MPs within the ruling coalition, but yesterday Jean-Claude Gaudin, the Minister for Regional Development, said that the coalition should be prepared for such an eventuality. "If it takes place early, that is all the more reason for us first to be ready, second to be determined and third to be united," M Gaudin said in a radio interview.

M Juppé's approval rating has sunk to 30 per cent, according to the latest polls, only slightly above the record lows of last winter. The Prime Minister has faced a wave of internal criticism over his recent initiatives to bolster anti-racist legislation and tighten voting rules by adding an element of proportional representation.

During last week's stormy Gaullist conference President Chirac personally intervened to shield his Prime Minister

against increasingly vitriolic attacks from members of his own party.

Just hours before yesterday's confidence vote, Gilles de Robien, floor leader of the UDF, criticised M Juppé's failure to communicate with his coalition partners.

## Legacy of prayer is treasure on earth

Hamburg: A Spanish businessman and devout Roman Catholic who stopped to pray at a church during a trip to Stockholm ended up a millionaire. Bild reported yesterday.

The church was empty except for a coffin containing the remains of a man, so 35-year-old Eduardo Sierra knelt down and prayed for the deceased for 30 minutes, counting off the beads on his rosary, the paper said.

Sierra signed a condolence book placed by the coffin after he saw a note

saying those who prayed for the dead man should enter their names and addresses. He noticed that he was the first one to sign.

Several weeks later, Señor Sierra got a call from the Swedish capital informing him that he had inherited the fortune of the dead man, Jens Svensson, a 73-year-old property dealer with no close relatives.

Mr Svensson had specified in his will that "whoever pays for my soul gets all my belongings", Bild reported.

## Adriatic blockade called off

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN BRUSSELS

NATO and the Western European Union ended their naval blockade in the Adriatic yesterday after the United Nations Security Council's vote to lift trade sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

The WEU also announced that it was ending its policing operation to prevent sanctuaries reaching Serbia by the Danube.

The sanctions enforcement mission had been suspended in June when the UN ended its arms embargo against all the former Yugoslav republics.

In a joint statement, Nato and the WEU said their vessels had challenged 74,000 ships since the mission, codenamed Operation Sharp Guard, started in 1993. Six ships were caught trying to break the sanctions.

"Nato and the WEU consider this operation a success, since no ships have been reported as having broken the embargo," the statement said.

The Security Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to lift sanctions as a sign of international recognition of Serbia's role in helping to bring peace to the Balkans.

The mission was the first joint operation between Nato and the WEU, fledgling defence arm of the European Union. The statement said both bodies thought it "served as a positive demonstration of strengthening ties and intensifying co-operation".

## Bulgarian plea for calm after murder of top politician

BY JAMES PITTIFER AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ANDREI LUKANOV, the former Bulgarian Prime Minister and Socialist deputy, was murdered at his Sofia house yesterday in a mafia-style killing that will add to the feverish political atmosphere in the run-up to presidential elections on October 27.

In a scene reminiscent of the legendary and numerous assassinations of Bulgarian leaders earlier this century, a middle-aged man fired two shots at Mr Lukanov, 58, at about 9.30am — one to the head, the other to the heart. He died about 20 minutes later in a pool of blood on the front doorstep of his Lakatnik Street home.

Parliament appealed for calm, saying the elections would take place as planned, and armed police shut main roads linking the Bulgarian capital with frontier checkpoints, witnesses said.

Police removed the body for a forensic science examination, the state radio reported, adding that Aleksandr Avdeev, Russia's Ambassador to Sofia, had visited the scene and talked to investigators.

Dimitar Vladimirov, the National Security Service chief, told journalists that Mr Lukanov had been under his unit's protection from February until April after he was threatened. The protection ended after an "investigation clarified the case", he said.

In a joint resolution all

six workers were killed and three others were injured when fire swept through a giant new Italian methane gas tanker off the port of Genoa in northern Italy.

Helicopters and launches ferried firemen to the blazing tanker but it was several hours before the fire was brought under control. There were 188 people on the ship at the time. (AFP)

The resolution, read in the chamber by Blagovest Sendov, the Speaker, said: "We appeal to all Bulgarian citizens to keep calm and together with us guarantee the constitutional order. We will not allow this terrorist act to lead to declaring a state of emergency in Bulgaria."

Mr Sendov called a day of mourning for tomorrow.

Mr Lukanov, an economist, was a leader of the Gorbachev-oriented reform Communists who overthrew Todor Zhivkov, the party chief, in a coup in November 1989. He became Prime Minister after winning the first post-Communist elections in February 1990.

Born and educated in Moscow, where his father was a senior Bulgarian official, he was a warm, intelligent, cultured man who spoke several languages. Widely seen in Sofia as Russia's man in the inner circle of the political elite, he was a close friend of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister.

As yet no one has claimed responsibility for the killing, but it is likely to be part of the increasingly lethal mafia and politics mixture in Sofia. (AFP)

## Cashing in on making waves

Taipei: A Taiwanese travel agency hopes to make the most of a territorial dispute embroiling Taipei, Tokyo and Peking by offering a luxury cruise to the group of deserted islands, known in Chinese as the Diaoyus, in the East China Sea, the *United Evening News* reported. (Reuters)

Munich: Bavarian regional police arrested an electrician and a mechanic who are suspected of secretly making and trying to sell 0.22 calibre firearms that were disguised as ballpoint pens. (AFP)

**AIGNER**  
Your good luck charm.



Bond Street

is finally complete.

The new Aigner Shop

on Bond Street is now

open - with an exclusive

range of leathergoods,

accessories and ladies' fashion.

We look forward to

welcoming you to our

new shop.

Aigner Shop,

119 New Bond Street,

London W1

12.9% APR

Why pay more?

We have recently reduced our rates to three levels ever:  
12.9% APR for Personal loans from £500 to £10,000  
13.9% APR for Personal loans from £10,001 to £25,000  
14.9% APR for Personal loans from £25,001 and over.  
APR does not include stamp duty or legal fees.  
Freephone 0800 30 30 000  
Quitting fee £4000/£2500

**HAMILTON**  
Direct Finance Ltd

We have the money to hand.

For further information, contact your local Hamilton office or write to Hamilton Direct Finance Ltd, 100 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AU. Tel: 0171 222 1111. Fax: 0171 222 1112. Email: [www.hamiltdirect.com](http://www.hamiltdirect.com)



**Dr Thomas Stuttaford** on an important new report into chronic fatigue syndrome; the tragic inevitability of the Allwood story; the danger of a 'hidden' aortic aneurism; how to help old people in the cold of the Highlands; a new drug to lower blood pressure

# The truth at last about ME

**Waiting** in the council chamber of the Royal College of Physicians for the verdict on myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), more accurately known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), was as nerve-racking as being in court when the jury is out and one of my patients is on trial.

On this occasion, the suspense was even greater because I felt it was as if the great and good of the colleges of physicians, psychiatrists and general practitioners were the jury and I, after my confrontation with the ME Association on the Esther Rantzen programme, was in the dock.

Doctors always worry about peer review and I couldn't have felt more apprehensive than I did as I drank my morning coffee. In fact, the inquiry had been set up in response to a request from the Chief Medical Officer, and not as a result of any controversy stimulated by the media.

The Royal Colleges' authoritative view, reached after an exhaustive inquiry, aims to dispel popular myths which have built up around CFS.

Fortunately, their report seems to support the opinions I had expressed in the less detached environment of the television studio during Ms Rantzen's show.

My opinion, the result of many years of medical practice, much of it with young

adults, is shared by 75 per cent of British doctors, according to an independent poll commissioned by the BBC.

The question which has been intriguing doctors, since it has been known that the commission was inquiring into CFS, was whether the Royal Colleges research would support the ME Association in its belief that there is a specific organic cause for the persistent troubles which afflict its members. There has been a continuing belief that perhaps it was only the intransigence of traditional doctors which stopped the responsible pathological process from being found and treated.

Or would the Royal Colleges favour the view that CFS is not a specific disease with demonstrable pathological signs, but is more a collection of symptoms in which abnormal fatigue is predominant? The report is well balanced, unemotional and does not try to give the definitive answer as to whether the basis of CFS is psychiatric or physical, but rather tries to give priority to the plight of the patients who suffer from it, and looks for an agreed way to treat them.

Whatever the persistent underlying disease process, it is agreed that a wide variety of situations, ranging from glandular fever to anxiety and other manifestations of stress, can trigger an attack. The Royal Colleges' research has shown that half of the patients

with CFS show signs of affective disorder (depression) and another quarter of other psychiatric diseases.

In other patients the obvious psychiatric link is absent but the report does not take into account family history. Depression and anxiety represent the strongest risk factors so far identified for the likelihood of developing CFS.

The report suggests that these statistics are relevant, cannot be ignored and cannot be taken into account as over 20 well conducted studies into CFS have produced very consistent results.

**T**he Royal Colleges' report emphasises the impact of insomnia, from which many patients with CFS suffer. It is possible that this insomnia, together with the lifestyle which patients with CFS lead, could cause the physical changes which have been recorded in these patients, albeit that there is inconsistent and conflicting evidence about these results.

The Royal Colleges reject the term ME as being inaccurate and misleading. As far as treatment is concerned, the report places particular emphasis on the need for the doctor to accept his patient's distress, but they are concerned that many of the treatments which have been so fiercely advocated are unproven, and may even be dangerous.



Esther Rantzen hosted the meeting between the ME Association and Dr Stuttaford

## A tragedy that was inevitable

**M**andy Allwood has lost all her eight babies. Once she and her partner rejected the medical advice to have foetal reduction, this tragically became inevitable. But what has been surprising has been the accuracy of the predictions made by obstetricians about the time that the pregnancy would end.

One expert suggested to me that Mandy would go into labour, just as she has done, at about the 20th week. The blood supply to the uterus is capable of supporting the expanding uterus and its contents only up to a certain size. If this is exceeded, labour, and, or, foetal death is to be expected.

As photographs have shown, Mandy's abdomen was already larger than that of a woman who is having a single baby at term.

Multiple pregnancies increase all the risks of complications in a pregnancy and delivery, and in consequence an over-distended uterus is more likely to bleed after delivery.

In Mandy's case, there is also an increased chance of the uterus and its contents becoming infected as she has suffered a prolonged labour — the first of the eight babies was

delivered nearly 48 hours ago and since then the uterus has been very vulnerable to infection.

This vulnerability is increased by the amount of medical interference which is always necessary in complicated cases. Care will now have to be taken to avoid a deep-vein thrombosis and with it the possibility of a pulmonary embolus.

One expert suggested to me that Mandy would go into labour, just as she has done, at about the 20th week. The blood supply to the uterus is capable of supporting the expanding uterus and its contents only up to a certain size. If this is exceeded, labour, and, or, foetal death is to be expected.

As photographs have shown, Mandy's abdomen was already larger than that of a woman who is having a single baby at term.

Multiple pregnancies increase all the risks of complications in a pregnancy and delivery, and in consequence an over-distended uterus is more likely to bleed after delivery.

In Mandy's case, there is also an increased chance of the uterus and its contents becoming infected as she has suffered a prolonged labour — the first of the eight babies was

## Helping the aged in the far North

**D**unrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's great castles and it has been the home of the Earl of Sutherland since 1225.

This weekend Lord Strathover, the present incumbent, is allowing the castle to be the venue for a conference on the medical aspects of life for older patients in the Highlands.

The conference, organised by Help the Aged and the North of Scotland Institute of Postgraduate Medicine, will concentrate on the difficulties older people experience when living in villages or houses whose very isolation, coupled with the sometimes harsh Scottish weather, makes regular contact with their family doctors difficult.

Among the subjects which delegates to the conference will discuss is hypothermia — particularly in relation to nutrition in the older person.

Very often the diet of elderly people is not as good as it should be and experience and research have shown that being adequately nourished is an important factor if hypothermia is to be avoided.

## SECTION 2

**Artist Peter Blake plays with the Old Masters Arts, pages 35 to 37**

## A balloon that can become a time-bomb

**A**lan Percival, Professor of Clinical Bacteriology at the University of Liverpool, was his usual ebullient self at the annual dinner of the Brasenose Society in Oxford last weekend.

If his wife had not paid attention to Professor Percival's health, the story might have been very different. Alan Percival was troubled last year with a slightly raised blood sugar, but any signs of diabetes were soon dispelled by dieting. Even so, Mrs Percival suggested that the time had come when her husband should have a general medical examination.

Professor Percival had no symptoms of any sort and felt well, but in order to preserve the marital harmony agreed to a health check.

Professor Percival had never examined his own abdomen with any great care, so he was surprised when a routine ultrasound of it showed that his aorta, the main artery leading from the heart, had an aneurism.

An aneurism is a ballooning out of the arterial wall and, like any balloon if it becomes over-distended, can burst. If this is the case in an aortic aneurism it may well produce a painful and dramatic death.

Alan Percival's aneurism was 5cm in diameter — the girth at which the risk of rupture becomes greater than the risk of surgery.

As soon as the diagnosis had been made, bathtime was not the same for the professor; for as he lay soaking in the water he became conscious of, and could feel, the pulsating swelling in his abdomen which beat in time to his heart. Professor Percival felt as if he was living with an unexploded bomb buried within him.

**The risk of rupture was more than the risk of surgery**

Professor Percival is one of the country's greatest experts on antibiotic-resistant hospital infections, but even the risk of being infected with one of the organisms he has spent a lifetime studying did not discourage him from seeking immediate surgery.

All went well, the professor had an uneventful operation and now has a piece of artificial aorta grafted into his natural one. He is again playing golf and working hard at reducing his handicap to 15. After surgery a patient can look forward to a life expectancy very little different from other people of his age group.

Screening for aortic aneurisms is recommended in middle age for those people who have close relatives who have suffered from an aneurism, in those who have high blood pressure, in diabetic patients and in people who have had an amputation.

Doctors' opinions differ as to the optimum age at which an ultrasound should be ordered, but only this month a 50-year-old patient of mine whose father had an aneurism, and who is symptom-free, was shown to have one.

Recently there has been a report of a large Finnish survey which has demonstrated the importance of also ultrasounding the abdomens of the brothers and sisters of patients with aneurisms.

In the Finnish study, reported in the *European Journal of Surgery*, the siblings of 200 patients with symptom-free aortic aneurisms were examined. Thirteen of the siblings, ten men and three women, also had unsuspected aneurisms which will now either need careful supervision or immediate surgery.

## Easier way to ease pressure

**M**ore than the patients who are known to have a high blood pressure are inadequately treated, and therefore quite unnecessarily running an increased risk of suffering either a stroke, heart attack or kidney disease. Often an apparent lack of care is not the fault of the doctor but is the patient's response to the unpleasant side-effects of the present drugs used in treatment.

Recently Cozaar (losartan), a new drug to lower blood pressure, has been introduced by the pharmaceutical firm MSD. It is claimed that research has shown that the side-effects experienced by patients taking Cozaar are no more numerous than those reported by the people given a placebo.

Despite its apparent innocuousness, Cozaar is as effective as existing drugs. The only complications noticed by patients taking Cozaar are that very occasionally they cause dizziness, and, even more rarely, a rash.

The manufacturers warn that care is needed if Cozaar is prescribed for patients with liver or kidney disease. The tablets are taken once a day.

## FAT REMOVAL



If you are unhappy or self conscious with your figure and if diet and exercise have failed to get you into shape, perhaps you should consider liposuction/liposculpture.

Performed normally as a day case by our experienced FRCS surgeons, we can effectively remove stubborn fat from the stomach, bottom, thighs, knees, ankles, arms, chin and male chest.

It is a reliable treatment that offers permanent results in the areas treated. (Over one million patients treated worldwide).

For a confidential consultation with one of our experienced nurses, without charge, contact us now.

OTHER PROCEDURES INCLUDE BREAST, NOSE, FACE AND EAR RE-SHAPING, EYELID SURGERY, VARICOSE AND THREAD VEIN REMOVAL, LASER TREATMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF LINES, WRINKLES OR SNORING PROBLEMS ALSO SPECIALISED SKIN CARE RANGE.

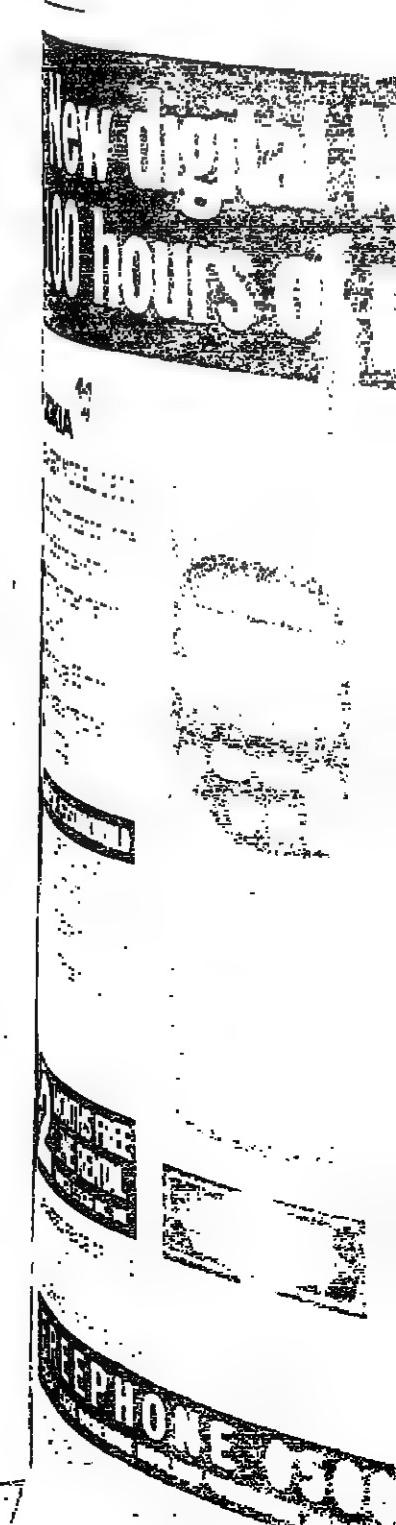
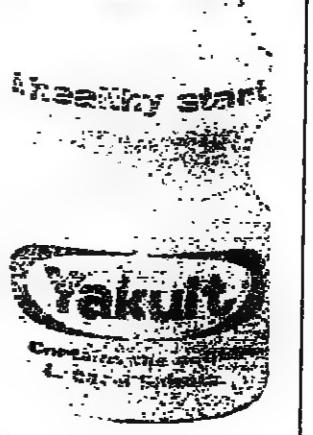
**THE HARLEY MEDICAL GROUP**  
6 Harley Street, London W1N 1AA.  
LONDON: 0171 631 5494  
BIRMINGHAM: 0121 440 6622  
BRIGHTON: 01273 324 061  
MANCHESTER: 0161 839 2527

With 6.5 billion live bacteria, how does Yakult taste?

Just right. Just try it.

The nature of Yakult is that you drink it daily so we've made sure you'll enjoy it. But it's health - not taste - that's the issue. Yakult's special live bacteria, Lactobacillus casei Shirota, helps keep a favourable balance of friendly bacteria in the intestines

- and contributes to general good health. Yakult is available across the South in leading supermarkets and many local stores. To hear more, ring the Yakult Consumer Information Centre 0845 697 069 (local rate). Yakult. A healthy start to every day.



that  
ne a  
nb

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

FEATURES 19

Juliet Stevenson has combined family life with acting while retaining strongly held ideals. Interview by Mary Riddell

PETER NICHOLLS

# I am a socialist, nothing else makes any sense

**M**ess, as Juliet Stevenson says, is something you have to come to terms with. The shell of a half-eaten baked potato congeals on the table. An iced lolly melts across Formica. "Let's switch Pingu off; we can watch him later," says Stevenson, extinguishing the ping-pong cartoon on the video.

It is lunchtime in Doncaster. Around us, in hundreds of council estate kitchens, women in aprons are feeding mush to toddlers. Stevenson is one of those mothers. Of course, as befits a star, certain concessions apply. Food is

"I was not born patient. It's not one of my attributes"

scorned commercial Hollywood, deciding — on the strength of reading for a Schwarzenegger movie — that she would do it, she began to achieve an unusual alchemy.

*Truly Madly Deeply*, a low-budget film made for TV, became the biggest grossing cinema movie of 1991. Her latest film, *Stone, Scissors, Paper*, destined for an unscheduled BBC2 *Screen Two* slot, may repeat the pattern.

Written by newcomer Richard Cameron, whose script won the first Dennis Potter film of the year award, it is the story of an unrequited love affair between a lonely and withdrawn Doncaster housewife and a married stone-mason. Nothing much happens. Stevenson's pinny-and-slippers image takes frumpery to new heights.

"There's no sex, no glamour, very little violence," reports the production's PR girl, slightly dolefully.

Such dismal omens notwithstanding, it will doubtless prove a mega-hit. Stevenson has the touch to pick and forge winners. From *The Politician's Wife* to her latest role in the film of *Emma*, her name is almost a guarantee of success.

There is an irritating quality about the flawlessness. After a morning of delays, I am particularly suspicious.

Of course, she is working to a constantly rejigged schedule, but still there is something disturbing in the deference surrounding her.

"Juliet is needed for the next shot. Juliet is hungry. Juliet wants to have her lunch first. No, she hasn't quite finished

her potato yet." Just when I am on the point of adding a "Have

you go to the cinema and theatre hardly at all. We only socialise with people who come round. I couldn't justify leaving Rosalind to go out and party.

"I have to wrangle with domesticity a bit, in terms of clearing up mess, but I love it. Some things amaze me. I was not born patient. It's not one of my natural attributes. With children, you have all the repetitive routines and the endless mess.

"I'm amazed that I can sweep the floor three times a day and not end up killing someone, but that's love, isn't it? You really discover what love is for — to lubricate the system so that you can do all that stuff and not go crazy. It's

a revelation." It is also, although she does not say so, a sort of displacement.

I used really to be obsessive about work. I could never cut it off, and I was up half the night worrying and doing the retrospective analysis." There were also times when, despite outward polish and unblemished reviews, she slipped beyond mere nerves into a more dangerous terror.

"Real stage fright is an unnatural mental state — awful games going on in your mind. I had a terrible bout of it when I was in *Troilus and Cressida*. As You Like It and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* all

at the same time. "I was overtired, stressed out, completely knackered. I'd go out there paralysed with terror, and that creates more terror. Words stop being words. They turn into illuminated worms, and you can't think. Acting is 90 per cent thinking, so you can't do it. But I got over it.

"And having a child is a great concentrator. It increases your concentration, rather than dissipating it. Now, if I'm working in the theatre, I can leave home at 5.30 and throw a switch."

She was never, of course, just an actress. A leading Labour luvvie, she was reprieved to be a first-rank Kinck

grandmother during the run-up to the last general election. "I didn't do much. It's been really exaggerated," she says, suddenly irritated.

"I did help launch their film policy, because it had the possibility of doing a great regenerative job for the industry.

"There's a lot of stuff in the Labour Party that I feel very uncomfortable with. I'm not a card-carrying member, and I'm absolutely not at their disposal.

"Dreadfully dowdy," she says, inspecting her costume critically. But rather appropriate. Unlikely as she is to be typecast, the tag of housewife superstar has a certain resonance.

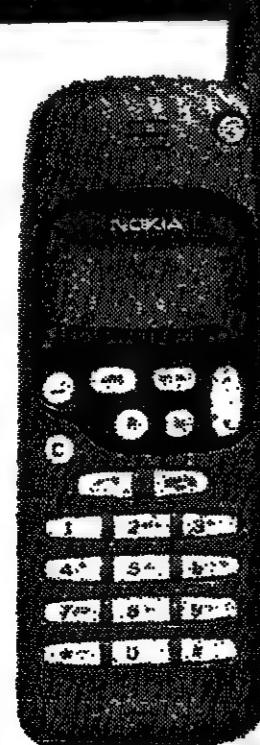


For several years Juliet Stevenson has lived with Hugh Brody, an anthropologist and writer, and her existence — once a whirl of amusement — has been whittled down to work and family

## New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!

**NOKIA**

- NEW GSM MODEL 1610.
- Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- 45 name/number memory stored on SIM
- Fast recharge-55 mins
- 5 selectable ring tones
- Weight 250g



LIMITED OFFER  
**£9.99** INC. VAT

- FREE LINE RENTAL - for 2 months worth £35.25 inc. VAT
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth £55 inc. VAT

**2 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL**  
WORTH £35.25 INC. VAT

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

**FREEPHONE 0500 000 888**  
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 8AM TO 8PM WEEKENDS 8AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL  
AND QUOTE REF 494. ISOBRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS

For details & terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No. 298322

Fair Use Terms & Conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No. 298322

LOW COST  
INTERNATIONAL  
CALLS  
**SWIFTCALL**

	5p
Afghanistan	390
Australia	389
Bahrain	749
Bangladesh	389
Belgium	349
Bolivia	349
Bosnia Herzegovina	349
Brazil	349
Canada	349
Caribbean	349
Chile	349
China	349
Costa Rica	349
Croatia	349
Cuba	349
Cyprus	349
Egypt	349
El Salvador	349
Finland	349
France	349
Greece	349
Greece	349
Guyana	349
Honduras	349
Hong Kong	499
Hungary	349
India	349
Indonesia	349
Ireland	349
Israel	349
Italy	349
Jamaica	349
Japan	349
Kazakhstan	349
Korea	349
Kuwait	349
Lithuania	349
Malta	349
Mexico	349
Morocco	349
New Zealand	349
Nigeria	349
Norway	349
Oman	349
Pakistan	349
Panama	349
Papua New Guinea	349
Peru	349
Philippines	349
Poland	349
Portugal	349
Russia	349
Saint Lucia	349
Saint Vincent	349
Singapore	349
Slovakia	349
Slovenia	349
South Africa	349
Spain	349
Sri Lanka	349
Sudan	349
Sweden	349
Switzerland	349
Taiwan	349
Thailand	349
UAE	349
Uganda	349
Ukraine	349
United Kingdom	349
United States	349
Uruguay	349
Venezuela	349
Yemen	349

**Cellphones direct**

Our Lifetime Product Warranty covers your phone against electrical or mechanical breakdowns for as long as you own it. Call 0800 769 0800 for details and to register your warranty.

For details and to register your warranty, call 0800 769 0800.

Freephone access available to Swiftcall customers on 1488.

Please have your credit card ready when you call.

Ref: TC

Conditions apply. A £1.50 handling fee is charged.

Call 0800 769 0800 for details.

Full details in The Culture, on Sunday

# STILL WILLIAM

First published in 1919, the Just William books continue to enthrall. Philip Norman finds William in his dotage, still making mischief.

The first of a new series on how childhood fictional heroes grew up, in The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend.

PLUS: JUST WILLIAM ON TAPE FOR JUST £1.98

An exclusive offer to buy audio cassette packs of the BBC Radio Collection, including Just William, which normally cost up to £8.99.

Full details in The Culture, on Sunday

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

# Is this the closing of our minds?

Magnus Linklater on the idea of a university, and its grim reality

**L**ocation, location, location, said Conrad Hilton — that was the secret of a successful hotel. Education, education, education, said Tony Blair in Blackpool, that was the key to a successful Labour programme. There is perhaps only one minor difference. Whereas Mr Hilton was investing in a hugely profitable business, Mr Blair faces the prospect of pouring money into a dark and apparently bottomless hole.

More than half of Britain's universities, we are told, will be in debt by the year 2000. Nearly 80 of them are forecast to be running at a loss within the next four years, unable to invest in development or research and so attract top-calibre staff. They blame government cutbacks and funding changes in last November's Budget and claim they will have to start looking for redundancies and introducing tuition charges to get by.

At the same time the numbers of those in higher education are still rising. New universities scramble to keep their totals up (at what cost to standards?) while undergraduates, strapped for cash, discover that they simply cannot afford to stay to the full course (last year, Aberdeen lost almost half its intake of engineering students). Are we seeing the fulfilment of Kingsley Amis's bleak warning, "More will mean worse"?

It is a prospect that Sir Ron Dearing and his committee on higher education are attempting to avert. Can Mr Blair, despite his promises, reverse the trend? No one seriously believes that Labour is going to loosen the Treasury purse-strings — you only need to hear Gordon Brown's stern warning on Monday that there would be "no quick fixes, no easy options, no magic wand solutions" to know that.

There will doubtless be talk of new approaches to student loans, more emphasis on private funding, closer relations with industry; the Dearing committee is said to be looking at limiting free university education to just two years and charging those who want to go on. But to judge from Labour's enthusiasm for information technology, the approach we are likely to hear a great deal more about involves a whole new approach to learning. The video revolution, interactive programmes, "distance learning", those buzz words of the new age offer a tempting alternative to some of the stiffer traditions of higher education. They may bring a chill to the hearts of those of us who emerged from the gentle chaos we remember as university, but they are here to stay.

A model for the college of the future was unveiled this week with the announcement that a new University of the Highlands and Islands is to be part-funded by the Millennium Commission. It will have no central campus, but will link ten locations as far apart as Shetland and the island of Lewis, which will communicate via computers.

In the end,  
proper  
teaching  
always  
costs money

I suspect that not even Macmurray imagined that the needs of the community or the student could be met in front of a computer screen. What most modern employers want — and claim is hard to find — is the well-rounded and capable graduate whose skills lie as much in the way he deals with other people as in his IQ. Personnel managers interviewing job candidates on university campuses often complain that although graduates may come equipped with impressive degrees, they lack necessary qualities of judgment, leadership, balance, self-motivation — what the American writer Daniel Coleman characterises as "emotional intelligence".

I spoke to one university chancellor whose establishment has close links to industry, runs at a healthy profit, and leads the field in information technology. Nonetheless, he said, his watchword these days is "learning through life". He argues that the "battery hen" system of higher education produces large numbers of highly qualified graduates who are quite incapable of dealing with the outside world. He believes passionately in the advantages of new technology, but says that it can supply only 20 per cent of a student's needs. The other 80 per cent, in his view, has to come from human support. He quotes Norbert Wiener of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who wrote: "The proper use of technology is to enable the human use of human beings."

And in the end computer learning simply cannot fill the gap unless it is backed by the proper people. And when that happens, it costs just as much as traditional methods. Education, however delivered, does not come cheap. Even if you utter the word three times,

## Great lengths

**S**MRKING at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool was Sir David Puttnam, the bearded film producer and Blairite. He had his latest film script under his arm: a screenplay for Vikram Seth's massive novel *A Suitable Boy*.

Puttnam has bought the rights to Seth's 1,349-page epic, one of the longer novels in the English language. He has sold the idea to Channel 4, and has been working in the idea with Verity Lambert, producer of *Dr Who* and the less distinguished *Eldorado*.

Together they plan a series of six or more episodes filmed on location at a cost of some £1 million. Channel 4 yesterday confirmed that the screenplay had been written. "Vikram Seth has been acting as a consultant on the project, which is now quite well advanced," said a 4-man. "We are not looking for finance, and filming should start at about this time next year."

The novel, set in India just after the British left in 1947, paints a panoramic picture, a sort of Indian *Orgy-Saga* told through the lives of interlocking families. The central character is a demure 10-year-old girl called Lata, whose bossy

mother searches relentlessly for a suitable boy to marry her. I understand that talent-spotting in Hollywood has already begun.

• More security chaos at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool, caused this time by condoms being handed out free by the Terence Higgins Trust. Their foil wrappers played havoc with the metal detectors of the security

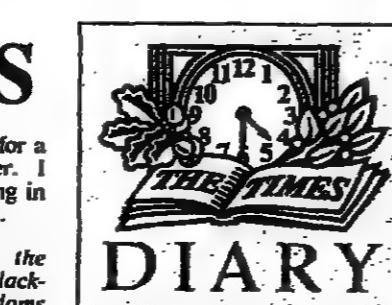
men, who insisted that delegates emptied their pockets of the embarrassing contents.

**Abbey habit**

**K**NICKERBOCKER TROUBLE struck one of the judges invited to Tuesday's service at Westminster Abbey to mark the opening of the legal year. I shall refrain from identifying the brassy soul, and say only that he is corpulent. He managed to squeeze into this silken hose, but a dinner too many in the course of duty meant that he couldn't do up his buttons.

An anxious call to Ede & Ravenscroft, legal robe-makers in Chancery Lane, proved fruitless, as they had none for hire. In desperation, I learned friend turned to some theatrical costumiers round the corner, who were happy to oblige.

"Baroness Castle, how about money not to ask questions?"



men, who insisted that delegates emptied their pockets of the embarrassing contents.

Only when he reached the changing room at the Abbey did he notice a label sewn inside with the name of their last occupant: Sir Harry Secombe.

### Mills boon

**S**HAKING a leg with hordes of teenagers the other night at the Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth, was the actor Sir John Mills, who is 88. He has developed an interest in very loud pop music of late, as a groupie of the band Kula Shaker, currently tapping the chart with their album K. The band's lead singer and guitarist is Crispian Mills, Sir John's grandson.



Mills minor: Crispian

"It was a great kick to be there," says Sir John, who watched the set from a platform at the back of the hall. "I'm an old musical hand myself, but this is rather a different sound. We listen to Top of the Pops every week now."

### Room 101

AT LEAST one vestige of traditional management lingers on at John Birt's BBC: rank-pulling over hotel rooms. In Blackpool on Tuesday night, Birt's inner cabinet started to arrive. They were led by Will Wyatt, the managing director of BBC network television, into the smart Pembroke Hotel in the centre of town, which is a hub of late-night conference schmoozing. Wyatt broke the news to several staff that they would have to abandon their marble bathrooms and satellite televisions because higher powers needed their rooms.

Dragging their laptop computers behind them, the refugees cleared out suddenly and are now stationed in a B&B some ten miles out of town.

### Fab girl

NEWS to perk up the Duke of Buccleuch, who is said to be Europe's greatest private landowner. Jo-



Joanna: long walk

anna Lumley, the beehived television star who stumbles her way, swilling champagne through *Absolutely Fabulous*, has bought a small cottage on his Drumlanrig estate in Dumfriesshire.

Supplies of Bollinger will be hard to come by. The nearest village to her run-down cottage is some ten miles away, and the place can be reached only by walking along a narrow track through fields and woodland. It's no place for stilettos.

P.H.S

# We'll see juveniles in court

Michael Howard's regime is too soft, says Jack Straw

**T**here are 56,000 adult prisoners in Britain's jails, and the number is rising by nearly 1,000 a month. Almost every one of them began offending when young. So why has the youth justice system in England and Wales so comprehensively failed to punish, divert or deter so many of those who now fill our jails as adults?

The facts of the failure are these. The kinds of crimes which young people commit — burglary, theft, handling — increased by 40 per cent between 1984 and 1993, while the number of young offenders dealt with by courts, or cautioned by police, fell 35 per cent over the same ten years.

Despite this huge drop in their workload, the efficiency of the youth courts has worsened. A young offender arrested today will not, on average, be sentenced until next Easter by which time any connection between crime and its consequences will have vanished in his or her understanding. Cases involving serious or persistent offenders take up to a year, sometimes more, with legal aid lawyers the only clear winners.

Meanwhile, young offenders run rings round the system. In Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, last year, youths aged from 12 to 15 operating in a gang were arrested 419 times before any effective action was taken.

A magistrate told me earlier this year of a young offender who had complained bitterly about being taken to court, "because he hadn't had his five cautions yet". However, in half the cases which do finally reach court, the offender walks away with another warning. Is it any wonder that young offenders get a clear sense of their entitlement to commit crime, and impunity from its consequences?

Maddening to the victim, frustrating beyond belief to the police, this system fails the offender too, by defining practically everything we know about child development. Children, especially adolescents, need certainty and structure, to know where the boundaries are. Many children who end up in trouble have parents who act inconsistently towards them — harshly one moment, indulgently the next — so that the children have a very defective idea of what consequences will flow from bad behaviour. Too often, the youth justice system operates in a similar way.

**S**elf-delusion and secrecy lie at the heart of this failure. For instance, government and criminal justice professionals have convinced themselves that far from failing, the system has somehow been an outstanding success. With stupefying complacency, the Home Office — under Michael Howard — told the Home Affairs Select Committee in 1993 that there had been a "real fall in the number of juvenile offenders per head of population since 1981". The deliberate error was to assert that a fall in the number of youngsters going to court represented a fall in the number of young criminals.

Adult courts are open, and their reality is regularly conveyed by television drama as well as in the news. Youth courts meet in private. There is no continuous reporting of the process, still less dramatic portrayal, and furthermore, precious little monitoring of their effectiveness.

Some of the professionals are still trapped in an intellectual "secret garden", in which a culture of excuse for the failure of the system — and the offender — is all too prevalent. The complacent and mistaken idea that young offenders will grow out of this behaviour without correction or instruction is deeply entrenched.

Of course, crime has deeper causes than any defect in the criminal justice process. Providing youngsters with hope, getting 250,000 under-25s off benefit and into work is as much an anti-crime policy as it is an economic policy. The youth service needs to be strengthened, and truancy must be much more effectively countered.

But with the youth justice system, we will have to start again. The system can work only if it replicates the manner in which families and schools best cope, by acting swiftly, consistently, and by confronting the youngster and the parents with the consequences of offending behaviour. To achieve this, the paralysing legal confusion between "welfare" and "punishment" must be ended.

This will entail a number of measures. The inappropriate, adversarial theatre of the youth court must be exchanged for an inquisitorial system; and endless cautions must be replaced with a single final warning, which will usually trigger intervention by family and community. There must be fast-track punishment for persistent and serious offenders, accompanied by extensive parental support and training, and reform of the chaotic custodial arrangements for young offenders.

The youth justice system in England and Wales has been so ineffective for so long that we now lock up a larger proportion of our adult population than any other European country except Turkey. If we are firmer and more focused when the offenders are young, we can reverse this unenviable record, reducing both the numbers of potential adult offenders and their victims.

The author is Shadow Home Secretary and will address the Labour Party conference today.



# The week the Tories lost

Nobody comes out of the Hamilton affair well, but Major loses most

**I**t does not seem to do people much good to get close to Mohamed Al Fayed. It did not do Tiny Rowland any good at all; he thinks that Mr Al Fayed pinched Harrods off him. If Tiny Rowland's classic pamphlet *A Hero from Zero* is to be believed, it did not do Papa Doc Duvalier or Adnan Khoshoggi much good either. The Sultan of Brunei has few complaints, but is perhaps too rich to need to complain.

The Al Fayed friendship, if it can be called that, may have led Peter Preston, the previous Editor of *The Guardian*, to approve the notorious fake fax to the Paris Ritz; that misjudgment may even have contributed to his now being an ex-editor. It need scarcely be said that the Al Fayed connection has done no good to Neil Hamilton or Ian Greer. They were his allies; see how he treated them.

What is odd about Mr Al Fayed is that he is not only bad news for his associates; he also has the knack of being bad news for himself. He has, for some reason, the desire to be a member of the British Establishment. His view seems to have been established when the British Empire was still a world symbol of prestige. He behaves as though Lord Cromer was still the Sirdar in Cairo. It is all rather touching. Mohamed Al Fayed has bought Harrods, going through heaven knows what contortions to do so. He has served countless glasses of good champagne to the amiable free loaders of British café society; he has even resurrected *Punch*, and the British were beginning to take him to their hearts. One could hear people saying how much he had done for Britain, but now he has given evidence to what *The Guardian* alleged in 1994. They remember now. Apart from the costs, Neil and Ian have exploded their own reputations by going to the doors of the court and then dropping their action.

Yet the oddest behaviour of all may be John Major. Without his or the whips' help, the case could never have reached this calamitous stage. Under the existing law, constitutional requirements prevented

### William Rees-Mogg

against the amendment, and decided to abstain, as did Lord Hoffmann himself. I expected the amendment to fail, but it was carried by 119 votes to 57. There is little doubt that it had the support of the Conservative whips; the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, a nice man who gets things wrong, had spoken to Lord Hoffmann before the amendment was tabled. It later went through the Commons on Conservative votes.

Before the amendment, the Government was sitting pretty. Neil Hamilton had protested his innocence, as had the lobbyist Ian Greer. The action could not proceed for constitutional reasons. *The Guardian* could not produce its evidence, or obtain the damaging papers in the Government's own possession. The Prime Minister could not be called into the witness box. The sleaze issue could not be given a new round of publicity. The lid was on the box and it was firmly screwed down.

It was the Government that unscrewed it. The amendment would never have been tabled if Lord Mackay had not advised it. It would never have been passed, in the Lords or the Commons, if the whips had worked against it, however discreetly. Some

body must have decided to push the amendment forward: this could hardly have been done without John Major's approval. Yet it was madness to let the issue be reopened.

Almost everyone has been damaged. *The Guardian* has a scoop, but it is itself under the curse of Harrods. Neil Hamilton is finished as a politician. Ian Greer must be pretty well finished as a lobbyist. Mohamed Al Fayed is finished as a candidate member of the British Establishment; he has been returned to the boudoir's enclosure. Yet surely the curse of Harrods has fallen most heavily on the Prime Minister himself. This week, Tony Blair's speech at Blackpool sounded only too prime ministerial. This week also the Tories found themselves once again up to the eyebrows in accusations of sleaze. This may well have been the decisive week of the pre-election period.

**O**ne of the difficulties is that Parliament is now so close to a general election. Any effective form of inquiry needs to be quick and open. Scott, for instance, took far too long. A quick and open inquiry would coincide with the immediate pre-election period, when both parties will be seeking every possible advantage. The public very much dislikes what it hears, and rightly so; it wants the truth to be established. The timing is not favourable for the impartial and meticulous examination of events in which many have behaved properly, but some may have behaved unwisely, and some seem to have behaved disgracefully.

Should we all beat our breasts and say that things were never like this in the old days? Not so, for they were exactly like this in the old days. This is the House of Commons not only of Pitt and Peel, but of Labouchere and Horatio Bottomley. Parliament has always had its cads and its cards as well as its orators and its heroes. Look at Disraeli, who comes into all four categories, as does Robert Walpole. One should not forget Colonel Wigg, Captain Kerby and Captain Cunningham-Reid, just among more recent military Members. Mohamed Al Fayed is admittedly a splendid invention, a sort of demimonde of self-alleged corruption, scattering confusion and banknotes wherever he goes, like Flora on a Venetian ceiling. But this week of steaky brouhaha may well signal the end of 17 years of Tory administration.

Adult courts are open, and their reality is regularly conveyed by television drama as well as in the news. Youth courts meet in private. There is no continuous reporting of the process, still less dramatic portrayal, and furthermore, precious little monitoring of their effectiveness.

Some of the professionals are still trapped in an intellectual "secret garden", in which a culture of excuse for the failure of the system — and the offender — is all too prevalent. The complacent and mistaken idea that young offenders will grow out of this behaviour without correction or instruction is deeply entrenched.

Of course, crime has deeper causes than any defect in the criminal justice process. Providing youngsters with hope, getting 250,000 under-25s off benefit and into work is as much an anti-crime policy as it is an economic policy. The youth service needs to be strengthened, and truancy must be much more effectively countered.

But with the youth justice system, we will have to start again. The system can work only if it replicates the manner in which families and schools best cope, by acting swiftly, consistently, and by confronting the youngster and the parents with the consequences of offending behaviour. To achieve this, the paralysing legal confusion between "welfare" and "punishment" must be ended.

This will entail a number of measures. The inappropriate, adversarial theatre of the youth court must be exchanged for an inquisitorial system; and endless cautions must be replaced with a single final warning, which will usually trigger intervention by family and community. There must be fast-track punishment for persistent and serious offenders, accompanied by extensive parental support and training, and reform of the chaotic custodial arrangements for young offenders.

The youth justice system in England and Wales has been so ineffective for so long that we now lock up a larger proportion of our adult population than any other European country except Turkey. If we are firmer and more focused when the offenders are young, we can reverse this unenviable record, reducing both the numbers of potential adult offenders and their victims.

The author is Shadow Home Secretary and will address the Labour Party conference today.



"Baroness Castle, how about money not to ask questions?"

**S**MRKING at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool was Sir David Puttnam, the bearded film producer and Blairite. He had his latest film script under his arm: a screenplay for Vikram Seth's massive novel *A Suitable Boy*.

Puttnam has bought the rights to Seth's 1,349-page epic, one of the longer novels in the English language. He has sold the idea to Channel 4, and has been working in the idea with Verity Lambert, producer of *Dr Who* and the less distinguished *Eldorado</i*



## A HARDER EMU

Blair is starting to make sense on a single currency

Labour's policy on a single currency is hardening. This week in Blackpool, as our Political Editor reports, hints have been coming thick and fast that a Labour government would not join the first wave of economic and monetary union. Regardless of the merits or otherwise of British membership, a new Blair administration would not want to see its first term dominated by the preparations needed for Britain to sign up by 1999.

Enthusiasts for European Union in the Labour leadership used to believe that, if Britain did not enter the single currency in the first wave, the party's pro-European credentials would be blotted; that this country would not be taken seriously by its European partners and its influence would be diminished. Now they are starting to think more subtly. They are aware that a Labour government in Britain is so fervently desired by other member states that the mood would become friendlier almost whatever Mr Blair did. And they are thinking more carefully about what EMU would mean.

Mr Blair used to say that he was in favour of the principle, but wanted to see proper convergence before signing Britain up. Now he has taken to using arguments of principle against a single currency: not those of sovereignty, but of economics. How, he asks, would a single currency area cope with an external shock which hit some countries harder than others? Without exchange rate adjustments, the only variables that can smooth out the differences are the movement of labour from poor countries to rich ones, or huge transfers of money from rich countries to poor ones. The former is difficult in the EU because of language and culture; the latter would require huge subsidies.

As Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve and custodian of one of the biggest currency unions in the world, could tell Mr Blair, America has these problems.

But it is easier for an unemployed car worker in Detroit to move to Colorado than for a Portuguese fisherman to start a new life in Germany. And even with greater labour mobility, the redistribution of money from rich to poor states in America is far higher than Europe could contemplate. The implication of Mr Blair's argument is that a single currency could work only if Europe were as united — economically, politically and linguistically — as America. That might take the Labour leader's famous thousand years.

If Mr Blair is worrying about the theory behind a single currency, others in his party are concerned about its implications for jobs. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, told the conference that "jobs will be the bottom line by which we judge whether Britain will join a single currency". He called for the Maastricht criteria to be rewritten to add low levels of unemployment. If this has any chance of happening, it will not be in time for the first wave. Mr Cook's stricter criteria, which include convergence of output and investment, also point to delay.

Labour's views on sovereignty are weaker than those of the Tories. A Labour government would still be tempted to join EMU if it felt that Britain would otherwise lose inward investment or sacrifice economic growth. But at least, by waiting to see what effect EMU had on the British economy, there would be a chance for Britain to remain outside for longer — possibly much longer if it were seen to gain from the flexibility of retaining its own currency.

Had Labour included a commitment to EMU in its manifesto for this election, a victory could have been taken as a mandate to join. As the party is pledged to seek "the full consent of the people" first, that now means either a referendum or a second general election. Labour is still wedded to the social chapter. But on the European issue that most divides the country, Labour has become a safer bet than it was.

## BENCHMARKS FOR HONG KONG

Firm words which will need to be backed by legal action

Chris Patten's annual policy speech yesterday was the last to be made by a British Governor of Hong Kong. Inevitably, it was something of a report card on the four years since he arrived, with a characteristically vigorous defence of the reforms that have buttressed political and administrative accountability and improved Hong Kong's quality of life. But its tone was anything but valedictory. The Governor was out to emphasise Britain's continuing political, moral and financial interest in Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese sovereignty next July — and to lay down 16 "benchmarks" by which people will judge whether China is abiding by its treaty commitment to leave Hong Kong to manage its own affairs.

The administrative report card measures up well against Mr Patten's pledges of four years ago. Then, he said that without losing its competitive edge, Hong Kong could clean up its environment and provide the social safety nets that would make it a more compassionate place. He has been proved right. Spurred by cuts in income and business taxes, Hong Kong has grown fast enough to finance heavy public investment in education, health and welfare, housing, community policing and anti-pollution measures, while still increasing its reserves by a quarter, to around £27 billion next year.

Politically, Peking's criticisms of Mr Patten have obscured facts with which Peking must soon contend. Habits of democratic debate have rapidly taken root, and Mr Patten's carefully circumscribed political reforms have consistently been supported by two thirds of Hong Kong's people.

Mr Patten's benchmarks for post-1997 Hong Kong neatly encompass the reasons why Peking fears Hong Kong as a source of unacceptable political pressures. They include probity in public life, executive autonomy, a meritocratic civil service,

financial independence, a "fairly and openly elected" legislature and freedom of the press, opinion and rights of assembly, including vigils and demonstrations. Such a list will irritate powerful Hong Kong businessmen who are confident that they have privileged channels to Peking. But it has much in common, as Mr Patten remarks, with changing political expectations throughout Southeast Asia. And in Hong Kong itself, his list has wide popular endorsement.

One powerful reason is that China is not trusted as Britain largely has been, to respect the most basic principles of the rule of law. Hong Kong Chinese, looking nervously at the corruption, crime and arbitrary laws across the soon-to-be-dotted line that divides them from China proper, well understand the connection between political accountability and Hong Kong's future prosperity. That is why, as Mr Patten observes, China's determination to sweep away Hong Kong's first wholly-elected Legislative Council and replace it by a non-elected "provisional" legislature lies at the heart of wider doubts about the future of pluralism and freedom in Hong Kong.

China intends to set up this provisional body even before the handover, an act that as Mr Patten implied yesterday would violate the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong. Mr Patten says that the Hong Kong Government will have nothing to do with China's creation. Peking will not worry about that, however. He should go further. Britain should actively pursue the issue through international legal channels, thus demonstrating that for Britain and Hong Kong, the Patten benchmarks are firmly related to respect for treaty obligations. The sooner this is clear, the better. China is unlikely to respect the Joint Declaration after July 1997, if Britain fails to challenge a breach while it still governs Hong Kong.

## BEYOND THE TOASTER

The Consumers' Association offers its agenda for government

Among the small army of campaigners keen to display their wares at this year's party conferences is the Consumers' Association. Which? is no longer enough. Which toaster is a far too easy question. The Consumers' Association will offer *Making Markets Work*, its agenda for the next government.

This document marks a departure on several fronts. It attempts to address the big issues of quality and choice rather than the product-by-product analysis that *Which?* has long been known for. It aims to broaden the focus beyond consumer durables such as toasters to encompass any manufactured product, financial service or government operation funded by payment or taxation.

In a process of modernisation not dissimilar to one conducted elsewhere, Sheila McKechnie, director for the last 18 months, strives to redefine the language long associated with the association. The linkage of consumerism with self-interest and greed is rejected, as is the notion that the interests of customers and corporations are opposite and opposed. In recognition of recent trends it is accepted that "goods and services are increasingly being provided through the market". The regulatory regime of the United States is offered as a model.

This initiative comes at a time when the Consumers' Association has attracted some

controversy. The launch of its own credit card last month prompted accusations that, in this field at least, the independence and impartiality of the organisation has been placed in question. There are fears that this new style of campaigning will overshadow the traditional emphasis on product testing and detailed legal submissions. Ms McKechnie would retort that throughout its 39-year history the association has had the dual function of both promoting quality and lobbying for legislative change.

The details of *Making Markets Work* will prove provocative. On areas such as the practice of the professions, and the need for government to ensure that the material necessary for real choice actually reaches parents, the Consumers' Association is on the cutting edge of contemporary argument. In other cases, especially transport, with the predictable call for a comprehensive national policy, matters seem still stuck in the mindset of the 1970s.

Although it professes to support effective rules rather than just more regulation, the draft manages to propose one new ministry, ten new forms of supervisory agencies, and at least 35 examples of new or revised legislation, all in the space of 24 pages. This is a prospectus with much to impress but with rather too much to endorse.

## Blair's speech, his party, his Britain

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, "Without Mr Blair", you say (leading article, October 2), "the Labour Party would be nowhere". But where would Blair be, we may ask, without the Labour Party? And where will he be, we may add, when he has finally got rid of all its policies and traditions?

Simon Jenkins (article, October 2) mentions Lloyd George's rhetoric and Ramsey MacDonald's snobbery. What about what happened to them, and to their parties?

Yours etc,  
NICOLAS WALTER,  
88 Islington High Street, N1,  
October 2.

From Bishop Hugh Montefiore

Sir, So now we know. Blair's ten promises for a Labour Government do not include the environment and he barely made any mention of this important subject in his speech.

There seems little point in Blair's emphasis on the next 1,000 years unless we are reasonably assured that mankind will have another 1,000 years of existence.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH MONTEFIORE,  
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,  
Wandsworth Common, SW17.  
October 2.

From Mr William M. Ballantine

Sir, In his speech Tony Blair spoke of a Britain united: such a pity then that his policy on Scottish devolution could have exactly the opposite effect.

Yours faithfully,  
W. M. BALLANTINE,  
47 The Quarryknowe,  
Dean Road, Bo'ness, West Lothian.  
October 2.

From Mr M. Feld

Sir, Would not a minimum wage be preferable to the present situation, which has the taxpayer, through family credit, subsidising skinflint employers who do not pay a living wage?

Yours faithfully,  
M. FELD,  
36 Grove House,  
Waverley Grove, N3.  
October 1.

## Political lobbyists

From Sir Edward du Cann

Sir, It is plainly imprudent for any MP or parliamentary candidate to accept payment from a lobbyist at any time ("Sleaze and misjudgment", leading article, October 2). If payment does not establish an obligation, it implies one.

However, it will be bad if one consequence of the present furor is to discourage individual subscriptions to political parties during general elections or at any other time or to renew demands for the state funding of political parties as a substitute. The need in a democracy is to involve an increasing number of individuals in the political process. As Mr Blair has sensibly sought to do for the Labour Party and the Conservatives were once so adept at doing.

It is undoubtedly right to question the judgment of MPs who have taken money from lobbyists, if not to pillory them. Even more culpable is anyone who seeks to corrupt the independence of MPs by payments to them, direct or indirect. It is astonishing that the man who employed the lobbyist has hitherto escaped equal criticism or condemnation.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD DU CANN,  
9 Queen Elizabeth II Street,  
Aldermey, Cl.  
October 2.

## Mind your words

From Mr Peter Prescott, QC

Sir, Mr Best's proposed short Act of Parliament meant to catch stalkers (letter, October 1) only goes to show how difficult it is to frame one. Thus his wording

It shall be an offence for any person persistently to press his or her attention upon another in circumstances where he/she knows or ought reasonably to anticipate that his/her words and/or conduct are or is unwelcome to that other person vegetation, anxiety or distress.

would cover, amongst other things:

Mr Best, when nailing an evasive witness in court.

My wife, when trying to get me to vacate the bath.

Anyone, when pressing Mr John Major to come to some sort of a decision on European monetary union.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER PRESCOTT,  
8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

October 1.

From Mr Peter Croft

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Best on his proposed law to deter stalkers and "others who make a nuisance of themselves".

The difficulty I foresee is building enough prisons to accommodate the entire staff of the Inland Revenue and the VAT inspectorate.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CROFT,  
Blacknor,  
20 Tenison Avenue, Cambridge.

October 1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

27

## Loved ones at sea in BT yacht race

From Dr R. S. Mathur

Sir, My heart goes out to Tracey Capstick and her children (Sport, October 1), deprived of her husband and their father, James, by the BT Global Challenge. There is, however, another side to the undoubted agony being caused by this event, in which amateur volunteers are competing in the toughest yacht race around the world.

Watching *Group 4* disappear in the distance as it approached The Needles, having momentarily caught a glimpse of my newly wed wife on deck as the boat surged past our (relatively) clumsy ferry, I learned that it is possible to share in another person's sense of challenge and adventure. No matter how cynical one tries to be, this is a source of wonder and excitement.

Anyone with a loved one on board the yacht will understand Tracey Capstick's deep anxiety, and some of us even feel the same panic as the excitement of the start faded and we made our way back to empty homes and prosaic lives. Observing the start in gale-force winds and rough seas, it seemed likely that at least some of the crew members will find the going tougher than they ever expected.

Hopefully, this will bring out qualities and strengths whose existence they did not previously suspect — and this applies equally to those they leave behind. Just as the competitors in the Challenge will have to find hidden resources.

Yours faithfully,

JANE SADLER,

Old Manor Farmhouse, The Square, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire.

October 1.

animal would be at all likely to introduce rabies into the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY CARTER,  
Sparrow Hall,  
Forty Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

October 1.

From Mr Glyn Ford, MEP for Greater Manchester East (Socialist Group [Labour])

Sir, Mrs Angela Barklam (letter, September 27) asks how many animals over the last ten years have developed rabies while in quarantine.

Like many other members of the veterinary profession, I am of the opinion that the present quarantine regulations should be scrapped. Many of us think that a system involving vaccination and blood testing of imported cats and dogs, combined with the use of microchips as a means of identification, would be more humane and efficient, and in line with modern scientific thought.

These measures, entirely under the control of the state veterinary service, would ensure that no legally imported

Yours faithfully,

GLYN FORD,  
46 Stamford Road,  
Mossley, Lancashire.

September 30.

## Birth rights

From Mr Alan R. V. Anderson

Sir, Without the husband's consent it is not unlawful for the wife to abort his baby; without her dead husband's antecedent consent it is unlawful to use his sperm to create his baby (report, October 1). What a funny old world.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. V. ANDERSON,  
Côtes de Roazec,  
Rozel, Jersey, CI.

October 1.

## Kashmir plebiscite

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, Mr Frederic Bennett asks (letter, September 30) why India continues to refuse to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir, as demanded by the UN resolution of August 13, 1948. The answer lies in Pakistan's persistent refusal to honour the first two parts of the resolution.

The UN resolution was in three parts. The first and second parts called for a ceasefire and asked Pakistan, as aggressor, to withdraw all its troops, while accepting that India could retain some of its troops in Kashmir. Part three, which was not binding unless the first two had been implemented (see the UN aide-memoire, January 14, 1949), asked for a plebiscite to be held in Kashmir.

The holding of a plebiscite was, therefore, dependent upon Pakistan's vacating the territory it had forcefully occupied during its invasion of Kashmir in October 1947. But instead of withdrawing its troops, Pakistan waged a second war against India in September 1965 to grab the rest of Kashmir, thereby rendering any plea for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir pointless.

Yours faithfully,

RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,  
34 Shere Road, Gants Hill, Essex.

County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

October 1.

## Country roads

From the County Surveyor of Essex

Sir, Mr Tim Craig, writing from a Shropshire village (letter, September 25), doesn't want his country lanes resurfaced. This makes him rare: my postbag is filled with letters from people demanding just that.

I am sure the process he is referring to is only "surface dressing", not a full resurfacing, and means spraying the road surface with bitumen and spreading a thin layer of stones on it. This doesn't do anything for potholes, which need to be patched before it is done.

Surface dressing is essential to keep water out of the road construction and to retain skid resistance. It should be done every six or seven years, but with current budgets



## OBITUARIES

**Robert Bourassa**, former Premier of Quebec, died of skin cancer yesterday in Montreal aged 63. He was born on July 14, 1933.

**T**he Premier of Quebec is invariably a key player in Canadian political life, embodying the aspirations of the country's only French-speaking province and its nearly seven million people. However, even by that standard, the tall, slender, slightly ungainly-looking Bourassa stood out.

He was at the centre of an extraordinarily large number of events that helped to define — or at least illuminate, for good or ill — the relations between Quebec and the country's English-speaking majority. These included some of Canada's most torrid and divisive constitutional crises, which Bourassa had a hand in fomenting by his aggressive pursuit of Quebec's incessant demands for increased legislative powers.

A master of the political art of ambiguity, he was often suspected

by Canadian federalists of being a secret supporter of the cause of Quebec independence — a "closet separatist". But this did not stop him from being equally suspected — by autonomy-minded Quebecers — of being too fond of Canada.

Reservations about his loyalty to the Confederation largely vanished during the 1992 constitutional referendum campaign, when he fought hard for a package of proposals for renewing the Canadian Constitution. Nevertheless, the package was voted down in Quebec as it was; paradoxically enough, throughout most of the English-speaking Canada. The result left Quebec isolated, constitutionally speaking, just as it had been for more than ten years.

Bourassa was in many ways an improbable arbiter of the destinies of so many Canadians, outside as well as inside Quebec. Bookish and even vaguely aesthetic in appearance, immensely dignified and often aloof, he came across on first impression as anything but a tough politician.

Yet few have ever relished the

## ROBERT BOURASSA

political game more. He became a master at defusing the unending crises, large and small, that bedevil relations between the French and English in Quebec. Many of the disputes relate to language; Bourassa himself was the architect of some highly explosive laws aimed at curbing the use of English.

Born into a lower-middle-class family in Montreal's East End — his father worked for the Federal Government as a documents clerk

Bourassa attended a Roman Catholic parochial school and then the classical Brebeuf College. After graduating from college he studied law at the University of Montreal on a scholarship. Later academic awards enabled him to study economics at Oxford and tax law at Harvard.

He spent a few years working successively as a Canadian Government financial adviser, a university lecturer in economics, and finally as secretary to a provincial commission examining Quebec's financial structure. Then, in 1966, he entered politics and was elected

to the Quebec National Assembly as Liberal member for Montreal's Mercier riding.

On January 17, 1970, he was elected leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, in a three-way race. Little more than three months later, on April 29, 1970, he was at the helm as the Liberals swept the ultra-right-wing Union Nationale out of office. Thus, at the age of 36, he became the youngest-ever Premier of Canada's largest and second most populous province.

Bourassa had been Premier for hardly more than six months when Quebec was rocked by the so-called "October crisis" involving the kidnapping of a British trade commissioner and the kidnapping and murder of a provincial Cabinet minister by a terrorist group known as the Front de Libération du Québec.

The abductors were eventually captured and sent to prison, but not before the Federal Government — at Bourassa's request — invoked Canada's War Measures Act, a form of martial law. Hundreds of suspected FLQ sympathisers were

rounded up and thrown into prison for varying periods without ever being charged. Many Canadians never forgave Bourassa for his part in what they considered an arrogant and shameful trampling on people's basic rights.

Bourassa's Liberals were re-elected in 1973 but suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the pro-independence Parti Québécois in 1976. Crushed and bewildered, he relinquished the party leadership, but got it back after spending a few years in the political wilderness. In 1985, he got his revenge on the Parti Québécois who in the meantime had lost an independence referendum but won a second term. In 1989 he trounced them again for an astonishing fourth majority win in five elections as Premier. He resigned the Premiership because of ill health in 1994.

While at the University of Montreal, Bourassa had met André Simard, a girl from a family of rich Quebec industrialists. They were married in 1958. She and their son and daughter survive him.



## AUBREY BRABAZON

**Aubrey Brabazon**, Irish jockey, died on September 30 aged 76. He was born on January 7, 1920.

**A**UBREY BRABAZON was a jockey blessed with perfect hands, superb balance in the saddle, and an uncanny mastery of tactics in a race. But, above all, he fused this talent and understanding into a rapport with his mounts, and this was nowhere better demonstrated than with Cottage Rake and Hatton's Grace — both trained by Vincent O'Brien — which he rode to win three Cheltenham Gold Cups and two Champion Hurdles respectively.

Through their joint exploits, which made racing history and first established the potency of the Irish challenge at the season's greatest National Hunt meeting at Cheltenham, their rider became a legend in his native land, known simply as "the Brab". Such was the fame of his deeds that they even gave rise to verse: "Aubrey's up, the money's down, / the frightened bookies quake, / come on, my lads, and give a cheer, / Begod, it's Cottage Rake."

Yet the sequence of success had an unlikely genesis. Cottage Rake, a nine-year-old, came to Cheltenham in 1948 with only one previous win over fences, and had fallen in the Leopardstown Chase immediately preceding the Cheltenham Gold Cup. O'Brien, also on his way to becoming a legend, and Brabazon, were so nervous before the big event that they had to stiffen their resolve with a large port and brandy at the bar, despite the rider being clad in his silks and weighed out for the race.

Cottage Rake started at odds of 10-1, which beforehand seemed a realistic assessment of his chance of taking National Hunt racing's crown of crowns. But the reality was different. Approaching the final fence he took the lead. Then, the better-fancied



"Aubrey's up, the money's down": Brabazon on the 1950 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cottage Rake

Happy Home, owned by Miss Dorothy Pagan and ridden by another outstanding Irish jockey, Martin Malony, outjumped him.

O'Brien was watching from this point, saw Happy Home's prodigious leap, and started back to the unsaddling enclosure gloomily assuming Cottage Rake was beaten. But he had reckoned without Brabazon's coolness and skill in the saddle. Cottage Rake overtook Happy Home on the stiff uphill run-in and won by a length and a half without his rider ever touching him with the whip.

Aubrey Brabazon was born at the Curragh. His earliest riding experience was gained with his father, Cecil, who ran a successful mixed training

yard, and with J. T. Rogers. His first winner came at the age of 15 on Queen Christina at Phoenix Park and in January 1944 he first rode for Vincent O'Brien.

This association, which was to bear such fruit, was successful again, after the first Gold Cup victory, when Cottage Rake and Brabazon were unbeaten throughout the whole of the next season. They triumphed in the important Ebor Chase at Manchester, in the prestigious King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on the day after Boxing Day 1948, and then once more, this time at odds-on, in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

This, Brabazon later admitted, was a hard-won victory. But the third Gold Cup in 1950

saw Cottage Rake, again odds-on, a 10-length winner. Brabazon having made a vital tactical decision and unexpectedly taken up the running four fences from home. This move had completely surprised his old adversary, Martin Malony, who was able to do no more than trail in second.

Hatton's Grace, Brabazon's other hero, was a completely different sort of horse from Cottage Rake. Although he had been bought for only 18 guineas and looked unprepossessing, the crowd adored him — as well they might, for he won three Champion Hurdles, two of them, 1949 and 1950, superbly ridden by Brabazon. Brabazon later recalled his "old pal": "We didn't know too much about him the first

year, but there was no fluke about any of his Champion Hurdle wins."

The jumps apart, Brabazon was also a great practitioner on the Flat. In 1948 he captured the Irish Oaks for the Aga Khan, which prompted an amusing recollection from him: "The Aga was not at the Curragh so when Masaka beat the Aly Khan's Azima by a length, the Aly Khan still had to lead in the winner. Since he'd had £500 on Azima he was muttering a few unrepeatables under his breath as he tried to smile for the photographers."

Brabazon also won the Irish 2,000 guineas on Mighty Ocean in 1950 and in 1946 he had shared the Irish jockeys' championship with his old rival and friend, Martin Malony with 30 successes apiece. Altogether, in Ireland alone under both sets of rules he rode 406 winners.

In 1961 he took out a trainer's licence, his best horse being My Kuda who took the 1966 Ulster Harp Derby and was placed at Royal Ascot and in the Goodwood Cup. Brabazon was also a former director of the Curragh Bloodstock Agency and in 1983 was made an honorary member of the Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Committee.

His brilliance as a jockey apart, Brabazon is warmly remembered both in Ireland and by the racing fraternity in this country as a thorough-going gentleman.

He leaves his widow, Ethne, four sons and three daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## TICKETS FOR SALE

## FOR SALE

## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

## FLATSHARE

## RENTALS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NON-INTRUSION RIOT AT RESOLIS, NEAR CROMARTY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

We regret to announce that the spirit of riotous opposition by members of the Free Church to the settlement of ministers in the vacant parishes, which exhibited itself at Resolis last week in the defacement of the Presbytery, was on Thursday last, the 28th of September, exceeded in violence at Resolis, a parish situated a short distance to the west of Cromarty. The following particulars by an eye-witness may be relied upon.

Thursday being the day appointed for the settlement of the Rev. Lewis Ross, presbyter to the parish of Resolis, vacant by the secession of the Rev. D. Sage, the rev. members of Presbytery, Colonel Hugh Baillie, M.P. of Redcastle, and Lord Lieutenant of the county, Sheriff Jardine, and other gentlemen, accompanied by ladies, set out from the residence of Sir Hugh Fraser, at Bracingwell, in vehicles, but on arriving within a short distance of the church, they found that the church was surrounded by a numerous party of males and females, for the most part under mature age, and that a few minutes previously, on perceiving the approach of Mr. H.T. Cameron, procurator fiscal of the district, and a sheriff's officer, they had at once forbade their approach to the church,

## ON THIS DAY

October 3, 1842

In a number of parishes in the Church of Scotland the settlement of a minister without the consent of the congregation was deemed to be an intrusion.

cutters in front, the Presbytery and escort, preceded by the sheriff, again advanced towards the church, and were received, when within reach, by volleys of stones. The sheriff then read the Riot Act, but, before concluding it, would have been brought to the ground by a stone, which he only avoided by pulling his head. The non-intrusion rioters had placed the women in front, thinking, perhaps, that the legal authorities would hesitate firing while they were in the way, and the men were ranged behind them, and kept up an incessant discharge of stones as large as they could hurl. One woman, more bold than the rest, advanced so near that Mr. Cameron, the Procurator Fiscal, seized her; she resisted, however, so vigorously that it was not until they had both fallen and rolled upon the earth that she was secured, placed in a gig, and driven off to Cromarty gaol by a messenger at arms. Scarcely a person had not been struck by stones before the order was given to fire upon the rioters. One man was apparently wounded in the leg, and, not possessing further ammunition, the revenue officer then ordered the party to charge with their cutlasses and with sticks. At this juncture, he was knocked down, and had a rib fractured, and, about the same instant, he received a severe wound on the back of the neck from a missile.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RETIRED?

*Don't let your experience go to waste*

If you are retired and have business or professional experience let REACH find you a satisfying, part-time, expense-only job with a charity close to home. REACH provides a free job-finding service for men and women throughout the UK. Volunteers are urgently needed to work with charities in most areas particularly in London, south of the river. Write or phone for details. Today.

## A HOME FOR LIFE

We help people of all ages in their own homes or in new residential and nursing homes. Regardless of changing circumstances and the ability to pay, we can offer the security of a home for life. Help us by sending your donation to:

D.G.A.A.  
PRESIDENT: London W1  
for further information call  
0171-5116116

or write to:

JOANNA Abrahams, Please contact  
D.G.A.A. directly. Tel: 0181 349 0207

or write to:

JOANNA Abrahams, Please contact  
D.G.A.A. directly. Tel: 0181 349 0207

or write to:

JOANNA Abrahams, Please contact  
D.G.A.A. directly. Tel: 0181 349 0207

or write to:

JOANNA Abrahams, Please contact  
D.G.A.A. directly. Tel: 0181 349 0207

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the war, and today, when conflict arises. Every year approximately £10 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.

Will you rise to the challenge, too?

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BEVOLVENT FUND  
DEPT C/6 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1A 4JL

**reach**  
Bear Wharf (TT) 27 Banksid London SE1 9ET  
Tel: 0171-928 0452  
Voluntary work for retired business & professional people  
Registered Charity No. 276837

DG  
AA  
HOMELIFE



Douglas Hyde, front, at the Vatican



# THE TIMES



INSIDE  
SECTION

**2**  
TODAY



## ARTS

Wessex and a singular girl: Jude hits the big screen  
**PAGES 35-37**



## TRAVEL

Tourist trade rolls with it as music lures the young  
**PAGES 40, 41**



## SPORT

The footballer who sings to a different tune  
**PAGES 42-48**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
46, 47**

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

## Success for Eurotunnel with £4bn rescue package

BY JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL'S dramatic 18-month struggle for survival appeared to have ended in success yesterday when the company clinched a £4 billion refinancing package with its banks, averting the threat of insolvency.

Sir Alastair Morton and Patrick Ponsolle, Eurotunnel's co-chairmen, called a hurriedly convened emergency board meeting to ap-

prove the plan last night after the breakthrough.

The deal, which could eventually give the 225 banks 70 per cent or more of the equity, involves an immediate swap of debt for equity that gives the banks an initial 49 per cent control.

Although the deal lifts much of the short-term uncertainty hanging over the company, the shares are likely to fall sharply when trading reopens next week because of the scale of the dilution.

Other components of the package include a cocktail of warrants,

shares were suspended at 114p on Monday after a sudden narrowing of the gap between the two sides in talks over the weekend.

The complex package is believed to involve a £1.5 billion swap at a conversion price of around 160p. A bond issue, thought to be convertible to 265p, could wipe out a further £2.5 billion of borrowings, bringing the total outstanding debt to manageable proportions.

Other components of the package include a cocktail of warrants,

bonds and convertible loans. Some City analysts, however, remained deeply pessimistic about the prospects for shareholders. Richard Hannah of UBS Phillips & Drew said the underlying value of the shares was just a handful of pence.

The value of the expected cash flows of about £5 billion to £10 billion during the lifetime of the concession compared with the £9 billion debt and £3 billion of equity that had been pumped into Eurotunnel, he said.

"In those circumstances you would normally regard the shares as worthless."

However, other commentators said the fall in the share price would be limited by the loyalty of the existing shareholder base, the vast bulk of which comprises small shareholders in France.

The remaining 135,000 Eurotunnel shareholders were also unlikely to sell because "they hold the shares for the travel privileges not for the prospect of making a fortune," said one City source. A number of crucial hurdles remain before the future of Eurotunnel is finally secured. The 26 instructing banks meet this week to discuss the proposals and must persuade the rest of the 99 billion syndicate to accept.

One rogue bank voting against them could place the survival scheme in jeopardy. In addition, two thirds of the 745,000 Eurotunnel shareholders, many of whom have been deeply critical of the course that the rescue talks have taken, must also approve the terms.

**Shares close above 4,000**

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S FT-SE 100 index closed above 4,000 for the first time yesterday, buoyed by strength in the dollar and on Wall Street and by a positive reaction in the financial markets to Tony Blair's address on Tuesday to the Labour Party conference.

The FT-SE ended 22.9 points higher, at 4,015.1, a record for the second day running. The index has now rallied around 380 points — more than 10 per cent — since its 1996 low in July.

New records were also achieved in Frankfurt and Amsterdam. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average made early gains.

Stock markets around the world have largely been benefiting from developments in America, with the dollar touching its highest levels since early 1994, and bonds profiting from a perception that inflationary pressures there remain weak and that interest rates, therefore, will remain low.

This positive effect has been compounded by the continuing troubles of Japan's economy and talk of large outflows of Japanese investment into foreign assets.

But in Britain there was an added ingredient to yesterday's buying, with government bond traders talking about "the Blair effect". Gilt yields finished around a full point higher, partly boosted by receding fears about a Labour government. Traders were impressed by the business-friendly tone of the Labour leader's conference speech and the promise of fiscal and price discipline from Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, in his speech on Monday.

Sterling rallied to end at 87.3 on its index against a basket of currencies — after having closed at 87.0 on Tuesday — and hit a three-and-a-half year high against the yen. The dollar briefly rose above Y112, a two-and-a-half-year high. Britain's official reserves fell by an underlying \$113 million in September.

Pennington, page 27  
Markets, page 28

## Share bonanza awaits Norwich Union voters

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ALMOST three million investors and policyholders will receive an average £500 of free shares from Norwich Union when it floats on the stock market next summer.

It will be the first flotation by a mutually-owned UK life insurer and will create a company worth between £3 billion and £4 billion. This will give it a value similar to that of Legal & General, but smaller than the Prudential or Commercial Union.

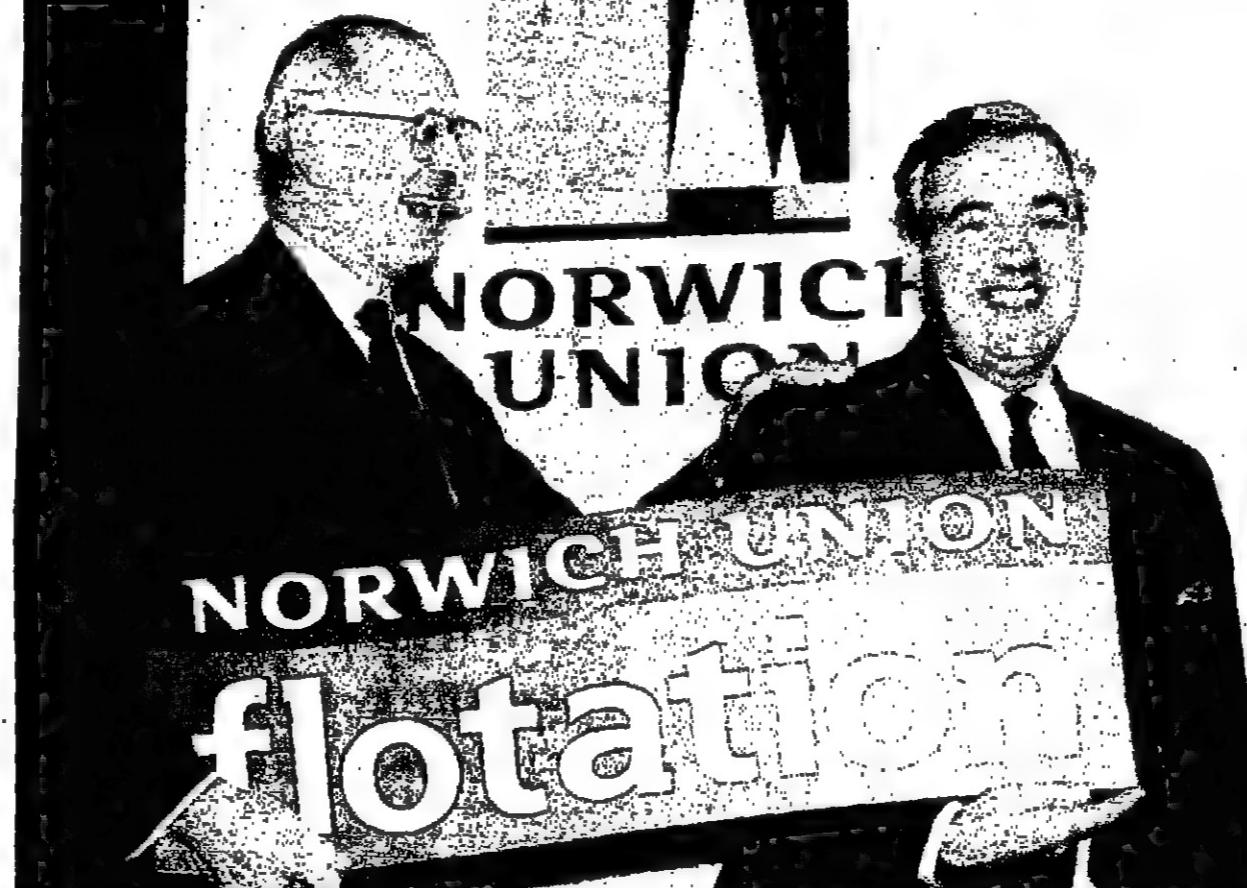
A wide range of policyholders will be included in the windfall payouts. Most holders of life pensions and annuity plans will benefit, including holders of life insurance non-profit plans, a category often neglected in payouts. But holders of motor, household or health insurance policies, unit trusts and Peps will not qualify.

Each qualifying member will receive a fixed number of free shares. Qualifying members with one or more profit policies will receive an extra allocation of shares depending on the type and age of policy. All qualifying members will be given preferential rights to subscribe cash for further shares.

Though the average payout will be £500, some policyholders will receive far more, while others, for example those with low-value term assurance, may receive less than £100.

NU is the UK's second-largest mutual insurance company after Standard Life, with £40 billion in funds under management and £4.7 billion of worldwide gross premium in 1995.

It will send out further details of the flotation next spring, after which members will vote. The insurer will need a venue large enough to hold



Floating voters: George Paul, left, Norwich Union chairman, with Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, yesterday

tens of thousands of investors, and the London Arena is being considered. If, as expected, the plans are approved, the mutual will become a public company by June, 19 months after the rumours first began.

Flotation will involve radical restructuring and the creation of a new holding company, Norwich Union plc. Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, believes that the group has been held back from expansion because it has been restricted in its access to

capital. He proposes to separate the life fund from the general insurance business.

This move will protect the life fund from the volatility of the insurance market, and give the company the freedom to make more adventurous investments.

The group is expected to raise an estimated £2 billion of new capital from the stock market and pay around £1.5 billion to policyholders.

Mr Bridgewater said new NU policies taken on from

October 3 onwards would not qualify, nor would second-hand NU life policies. Members who die, or whose policies mature before the vote, will receive an extra bonus, worth 3 per cent of the final value of the policy.

A fixed number of free shares will also be paid to each employee and pensioner. The directors of the society have waived their entitlement to this allocation.

A number of companies are believed to have contacted NU

after rumours about a flotation began circulating. However, analysts believe that a hostile bid for NU would cost a predator £5 billion, a price that few could afford.

Roman Cizdny, insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, said that the City's main fear was that NU might use its spare cash to make acquisitions that would not add value to the company.

Tempus, page 28  
City Diary, page 29

## Decision soon on BA tie to American

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Office of Fair Trading has completed its long-awaited report on the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

The report has been passed to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who must decide whether to refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Such a move would almost certainly prove the death-knell of the link-up.

The airlines have argued that pooling their services on the competitive North American routes will free up the market and benefit consumers. Greater competition would rely on the signing of an "open skies" accord between the UK and America.

Rivals, including United Airlines, Delta and Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic, have argued that a BA-American alliance would create a stranglehold on the key transatlantic routes.

BA and American had hoped to launch a combined service in April, pooling frequent-flyer schemes and offering a "shuttle-like" service to cities like New York and Chicago. Whatever the outcome, the airlines will not meet the April deadline.

Mr Lang is expected to announce his decision in the next six days. The consensus is that he is likely to decide against a monopolies referral, subject to concessions by BA on prime-time slots at Heathrow. Access to Heathrow is one of the main issues raised by US airlines seeking a foothold in the UK.

The DTI confirmed that it had received the OFT report, but would not be drawn on the content.

BA surprise, page 26

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

	Yield	Change
FTSE 100	400.1	(+22.8)
All share	3.50%	(+0.05%)
Nikkei	21,498.60	(+36.63)
Avg. Yield	6922.42	(+17.52)
S&P Composite	692.14	(+3.06)*

### LIBOR RATE

	1M	3M	6M	1Yr
Federal Funds	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Libor	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%
Little long gilt future (Dec)	110.10	109.40	108.70	108.00

### LONDON MONEY

	3-mth interbank	12-mth gilts
3-mth interbank	5.75%	5.75%
12-mth gilts	110.10	109.40
Little long gilt future (Dec)	110.10	109.40

### STERLING

	USD	£/Dollar
London	1.5882*	(1.5848)
DM	1.2886*	(1.2868)
FF	0.7768*	(0.7685)
Yen	111.67*	(111.43)
S Index	97.3	(97.0)

### USD/£ DOLLAR

	USD/£
London	1.2886*
DM	0.7768*
FF	0.5939*
Yen	111.67*
S Index	97.3

### YEN/USD/DM

Brent 15-day (Dec) 622.78 (622.50)

London close ..... 6360.00 (6378.00)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Injunction threat to Camelot

BY GEORGE SIVELL

OFLOT, the National Lottery regulator, is contemplating a court injunction against Camelot, the operator, over failure to meet commitments on equipping retail outlets.

Peter Davis, the regulator, is concerned by Camelot's failure to install the number of scratchcard verifying machines in shops over a number of months as specified in Camelot's licence.

Camelot says it missed its target by around 300 scratchcard-only retail outlets in March and about 750 in June.

Mr Davis said: "I am very concerned that Camelot has failed to meet its licence commitments and failed at first to provide accurate information to my office."

Camelot has told Oflot that the problem was due to an overestimation. It said: "We are now back on course to meet the December target."

exec





STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Futures spur the index to a record 4,000 plus

AMERICAN investors took a shine to the London stock market and sent share prices soaring through the 4,000 level to close at their highest levels ever. Government securities also rose by more than £1 at the longer end.

The FT-SE 100 index took its signal from a positive performance overnight on Wall Street to launch its assault on the elusive 4,000 mark. It achieved it in some style, closing 22.9 up at a record 4,015.1 after briefly touching 4,016.4. Much of the market's early impetus came from the futures market where traders reported brisk trade backed by heavy overseas demand.

Turnover in the cash market was also impressive, with a total of 835 million shares changing hands. Any remaining worries about growing inflationary pressures were offset by the latest housing survey from the Halifax Building Society showing a drop in prices during September.

Thistle Hotels could not have timed its stock market debut better with the shares opening at 171p on a when-issued basis compared with the original offer price of 170p. They ended the day at 172.1p, a premium of 2.1p, as almost 30 million shares were traded. At this level the group is valued at more than £1 billion.

Unconditional trading in the shares starts next Wednesday. Brokers reported a revival in speculative buying. Imperial Tobacco, this week's newcomer, was chased 10.1p higher at 404p on suggestions that it will be the subject of a dawn raid this morning. Almost ten million shares had traded by the close. The support for Imps spilled over into BAT Industries, which rose 5.1p to 437p.

Yorkshire Electricity was again being talked of as a possible takeover target with the price standing out with a rise of 23p to 772.1p in a thin market with 2.3 million shares traded by the close.

Kwik Save, the food retailer, clawed back some of its recent losses, caused by a spate of brokers' profit downgradings, to close 181p better at 330p. The speculators claim the group is lining up a merger with Iceland Group, the frozen food retailer. Brokers who follow the stock are sceptical about such claims.

Better than expected interim figures lifted Bank of Scotland 9p to 264.1p as brokers



Bond dealers in buying frenzy on Liffe yesterday

began the task of upgrading their estimates for the full year. Most of them are now looking for between £640 million and £660 million compared with earlier estimates of between £600 million and £620 million. Much of the improvement came from the clearing bank side of the business and that turned out to be good news for Royal

met arm. It is the second downgrading for the group in recent months. Brokers cut their estimates in June when the group was relegated as a FT-SE 100 index constituent.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £6.7 million.

Brokers have been unable to work up any enthusiasm for Grand

Metropolitan after a meeting with the company. NatWest Securities rates the shares a hold but has downgraded for the year just ended, by £8 million to £62 million. Goldman Sachs, its view unchanged, does not expect the shares to outperform.

**Bank of Scotland, up 16p at 516.1p.**

Profit downgradings by at least three brokers left Cookson Group nursing a fall of 13.1p to 234.1p. Tilney, ABN Amro, Hambros Govett and Henderson Crustwells have all cut their forecasts for this year and next by 10 per cent. Henderson says it reflects depressed conditions in Cookson's electronic equip-

ment arm.

In recent weeks, the HTV share price, up earlier at 352p, has been supported by talk of an imminent bid from either Michael Green's Carlton Communications, down 15p at 469p, or Lord Hollick's

Group, take-over favourite.

Half-year figures from HTV Group, takeover favourite, came in at the top end of expectations with the group reporting a



## Royal Mail first past post

GOOD news, at last, for Royal Mail, after its relay race yesterday with Norwich Union. Around 80 per cent of the insurer's three million policyholders received the announcement of the proposed flotation and welcome windfall in their morning post, either before or at the same time as the official announcement was made in the City. Cornflakes will never taste the same again for the chief executive, Allan Bridgewater.

## Wembley woe

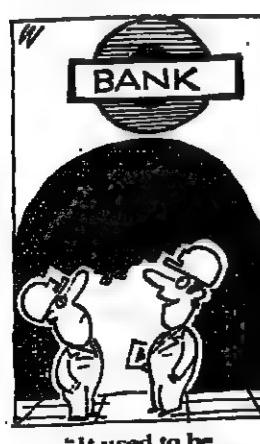
DAVE WHELAN, chairman of JJB Sports, was back at Wembley Stadium yesterday for the first time since he was carried off the hallowed turf with a broken leg in 1960. It was after playing for Blackburn Rovers against Wolverhampton Wanderers, who eventually won 3-0, that Whelan picked up enough injury money to start his business. There was no silver lining yesterday, however. The team from JJB Sports lost to JD Sports, Dixons, and Cobra in the Umbro Tournament.

## BA dress sense

SIR COLIN MARSHALL and Robert Ayliffe, chairman and chief executive of British Airways, could soon be sporting chunky-knit sweaters à la Richard Branson. BA has bowed to the inevitable and is allowing staff and their families who travel on discount tickets to dress in mutual. Until now a strict dress code was rigorously enforced. Welcome to the 20th century, BA.

## Gammell scores

AT LAST, victory is in sight for Bill Gammell, chief executive of Cairn Energy and a former Scottish international rugby player. Gammell, who grew up with Tony Blair at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and studiously avoided the rugby pitch while at school, never once scored a try against the Australians. However, he got his own back yesterday, when Cairn Energy bid £190 million for Command Petroleum, a listed company in Australia.



"It used to be called Eurotunnel"

## Takes the cake

BOSSES from Rolls-Royce, Coopers & Lybrand and Warburgs will sit down for supper at The Savoy in the company of a two-year-old cake. The cake, made for the memorial service for the late cricket commentator Brian Johnston, will be wheeled out again tonight at The Cricket Ball, in aid of The Brian Johnston Memorial Fund. John Major has, unfortunately, declined his invitation to join diners and the defected cake.

AFTER famously stalking out of a Downing Street Cabinet meeting, Michael Heseltine's subsequent departure from the Department of Trade and Industry appears to have been less spectacular. Speaking at a presentation ceremony at the Dorchester to mark City watchdog Imro's entry into the Investors in People (IIP) scheme, he came clean. "I committed the DTI to IIP and then I got shuffled out of the way. So now we know."

MORAG PRESTON

**O**dd, you may think, that the first muffled outbreak of dissent at Labour's conference should come over the politically yawn-making topic of pensions. The subject is, however, highly charged for Labour. Back at the 1992 election, its one proposal for a big immediate rise in spending was to make a step increase in the basic state pension.

To show that the party was responsible in costing that, the late John Smith devised a shadow Budget that raised tax deductions to 60 per cent at a level of income the party thought made you rich. The good folk of Basildon, and many others round Britain, smelt a rat. If the rich were paying for a one-off pension rise, who was going to pay for everything else? The leadership has learned its lesson. Avoid commitments on pensions.

The future of the basic state pension is not just a matter of tactics. It is touchstone to help define the gap between new Labour and its forebears. Has the party been modernised to take account of privatisation, or has it changed its spots?

If the state pays out cash in benefits,

means-tested poverty relief (such as housing benefit and income support).

The basic state pension has been central to this trend. From 1980, it has been indexed only to prices, rather than the higher of prices or average earnings. The cost of pensions has still risen about a quarter in real terms. More people are living longer. Many more women are earning a full entitlement through their contributions. Some real increases have been paid. And the pension had to be bumped up above general inflation when VAT was slapped on domestic fuel, a big item for pensioners.

Even so, the burden on taxpayers of paying the basic pension has fallen quite sharply. In 1979-80, it accounted for about 4.15 per cent of the national income. This year, it should take only 3.7 per cent. That would be a huge saving, if only this money and more had not been used for means-tested poverty relief. This downward shift should accelerate under current rules, perhaps to 3 per cent of national income in 13 years time. In spite of scares about a demographic timebomb, the ratio of pensioners to earners should not rise much before 2010. Labour does not need to ask if it

can afford to raise pensions, but whether it wishes to switch money away from them. On a utilitarian value-for-money judgment, means-testing is always the best way to help those in need. A small rise in universal state pension only adds to the available resources of pensioners who do not draw means-tested benefits.

The real world is not utilitarian. An earned entitlement lifts you up. A means-tested benefit of the same amount leaves you poor. If Labour continued the switch from transfers to means-tested benefits, it

would add to poverty rather than reduce it. The value-for-money approach also wrecks havoc with incentives. A means-tested benefit, like a punitive tax rate, corrodes incentives to do anything but cheat. That is why means-testing, rather than "featherbedding" breeds a welfare culture.

New Labour seems actually to have become the Utilitarian Party, but is not yet sure it wants to be. Its justice commission under Sir Gordon Brown, duly scared by the ageing population threat, preferred targeted help to the poorest pensioners to restoring the link to earnings, which would be wasted on the affluent and would cost a packet if backdated to 1980. Gordon Brown opted to target help for 16 to 18-year-old students, on the lines of university grants instead of child benefit, which is paid to millionaires who send their sons to Eton.

The party is still anxious to avoid the infected term "means-tested". So it suggested a minimum pension entitlement, aiming to bring in the estimated 700,000 pensioners who could claim income support but do not, while excluding those with private pensions. This sleight of hand should fool no-one. The critical long-term pension issue

is to persuade and help people on lower incomes to save for their own post-Serps private pensions. By definition, many cannot easily spare the cash, even if low-cost schemes can be set up for them. A means-tested "extra" state pension would destroy the incentive to save for a modest top-up that millions think they cannot afford.

For that reason, as much as internal political embarrassment, that idea seemed to have been dropped. Chris Smith, when shadow Social Security Secretary, formally dropped the old commitment to pensions indexed to earnings, but set an objective that "all pensioners share fairly in the increasing prosperity of the nation".

There is a simple way to ensure that, while avoiding any open-ended spending commitment to an ageing population. That is to fix total spending on the basic state pension as a proportion of national income, say the present 3.7 per cent. Pensions are then automatically indexed to the nation's ability to pay. Until the second decade of the next century, the state pension would nearly be indexed to earnings. That would help today's and tomorrow's pensioners know where they stand but would not interfere with incentives to build private pensions, which should start building up by then.

Sadly, Mr Smith was replaced by Harriet Harman and the radical Utilitarian Party agenda has been resuscitated. That suits Labour's election tactics. Any post-election pensions commission would surely see through it.

## State pension is touchstone for the Utilitarian Party



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Norwich Union's flotation typifies the changing face of insurance, says Marianne Curphey

## A case of mutual pride surrendered



The ornate Marble Hall at Norwich Union's Surrey House headquarters, after the completion in the spring of an extensive four-year refurbishment.

NORWICH UNION'S flotation plans bring to a close almost 200 years of being a mutual, and open another chapter in the changing face of the UK insurance industry.

NU is the first mutual life insurer to announce its ambitions to go public, and other, smaller companies will be watching its progress.

Among them will be Friends Provident, which is still considering whether to ditch its mutual status and take the stock market plunge, remain as it is or look for a powerful new parent. Scottish Amicable is another life mutual at a crossroads, although the City feels that it is probably too small to float alone. Scottish Life and NPI have also been touted as candidates for demutualisation or takeover, and even the UK's biggest mutuals, including Standard Life, Scottish Widows and Equitable Life may have to consider demutualisation. At present, however, the latter three emphasise their commitment to mutuality.

The trigger for this wave of change within the industry is technology. Traditionally, the daily administration of insurance claims generated mountains of paperwork, handled by huge teams of backroom staff. The advent of sophisticated computer systems and on-screen claims handling has led companies to scale down staff numbers or even contract out the back office operation, a practice known euphemistically as "outsourcing".

There are also too many players chasing a finite amount of business. Over the last decade the industry has seen a rash of new entrants, mostly offering direct insurance over the telephone. Direct Line was one of the first of these young upstarts. It holds the number one position in the motor market and insures two million private motorists every year. But there are more than 50 other direct writers, some concentrating on niche markets, others trying to compete head-to-head with more established rivals.

In addition, the insurance industry is feeling the squeeze from the banks and building societies, which once relied on them to provide life and

general insurance products. Having seen how large profit margins could be on insurance business, the banks and building societies are starting to set up their own operations, particularly on the life side.

Abbey National and the Halifax Building Society have both set their sights on becoming financial services powerhouses. The Halifax, which is due to float next year, is in the process of developing its life insurance division through the acquisition of the Clerical Medical, the life mutual.

In response, insurance companies have started to move into the banks' traditional territory. Norwich Union's closest rivals have already taken steps to ensure that money from maturing life insurance policies stays with them instead of ending up in building society coffers.

Prudential, the biggest name in UK pensions, opened

a new deposit-taking service two days ago; Standard Life is only weeks away from opening its own bank and Scottish Widows has had a deposit service since May 1995.

Once it has successfully floated, NU will probably have to start its own bank at a cost of £20 million or so to keep up with developments in the industry. It says flotation will give it the freedom to invest more adventurousy and so make greater returns to policyholders.

But observers see the move as defensive. They say NU has made the decision to become a quoted company after being assailed by its larger, publicly quoted rivals and forced to witness banks and building societies encroaching on its traditional business sectors.

Raising money from shareholders will give it the cash it needs to expand, either organically or through acquisition.

in what is fast becoming a fiercely competitive market.

Earlier this year NU's composite rivals, Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, acknowledged that to survive in such a market their businesses needed to be streamlined and competitive. Their merger, and the creation of a new company, Royal & Sun Alliance, is expected to result in the loss of 5,000 jobs. But it will create the largest insurance company in the UK, with a 16 per cent market share. Its board expects to save £175 million by 1998 through staffing cuts and cost reductions.

Similarly, Refuge Assurance and United Friendly believe that their proposed merger will bring cost savings and a bigger customer base from which to expand. So what can investors and policyholders expect in this brave new world? Most analysts agree that the current wave of consolidation is set to continue.

The Halifax will probably be looking to make further acquisitions after its flotation. Commercial Union, one of the stronger of the composites, is believed to have its eye on Guardian Royal Exchange, its weaker rival. NatWest Bank is rumoured to be stalking Legal & General, although the latter could just as easily merge with a fellow composite or buy up

smaller fry. Provident Mutual has already been taken over by General Accident, while five companies, including NatWest, bid for Clerical Medical, which means that there are four major players with spare cash looking for a life company to buy.

Some observers have predicted that in five years there will be a handful of major players offering a one-stop financial shop to individual investors. These mighty institutions will be able to arrange a mortgage, issue a cheque book, sort out your life insurance, take your money on deposit and provide customers motor, household and travel insurance.

The Halifax, Abbey National and Prudential have already taken steps to ensure they are ahead of the game. The Prudential has stated that it would like to buy a building society or life mutual to bolster its existing portfolio of life insurance. NU has a long way to go before it can compete on these terms. The City regards the performance of its general insurance business as mediocre and its management have still to adjust to the discipline of running a quoted company, rather than a provincial mutual.

Next year is NU's bicentenary. It will probably make it to market without being swallowed by a large predator. However, in common with many fellow mutual life insurers, there is no guarantee it will enjoy another 200 years of independence.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Telephone marathon in search of British Gas service

From Ms Elaine Elliott.

Sir, I was unfortunate to inherit a British Gas service contract on moving house earlier this year. My misfortune was compounded on suffering a complete break-down of my central heating system last weekend, requiring British Gas's service.

It was not necessary merely to make two or three attempts to telephone in order to get through (Pennington, September 24), more like between 20 to 50 calls. Each time I attempted to contact British Gas (which was more often

than should have been necessary for the reasons given below) it took me approximately 11-12 hours to get through! Like Mr Foran (Letter, September 29), I tried a variety of numbers with no greater success on any day.

However, an appointment was made for Friday afternoon and accordingly I took time off work. Nobody turned up, nor was I contacted by British Gas. On telephoning I was told eventually (at 7pm) that the allocated engineer was "off sick". A further appointment was made for the following morning.

Much to my amazement an engineer arrived. He even had the right spare part and rectified the problem within a short period.

Yours faithfully,  
ELAINE ELLIOTT,  
164 Felstead Road,  
Orpington, Kent.

#### Give credit where credit is due

From Mr Erik Peckett.

Sir, Having read the report on the problems regarding British Gas servicing (September 24), it was with some trepidation that I telephoned the service contract number this morning at about 10 am. The call was answered on my second attempt and a cheerful voice, having checked my details, announced that if I could be in this afternoon an engineer would call. At 12.02pm, the engineer arrived and by 12.41pm he had left, having replaced the pump on the system. Credit where credit is due.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIK PECKETT,  
The Haven,  
Gabriel Lane,  
Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffordshire, ST1 5JL.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH FRANCOMBE,  
Director of Distribution and  
Services Sector Division,  
Office for National Statistics,  
Cardiff Road, Newport,  
South Wales.

#### Call to the top for prompt efficient service also draws a non-response

From Mr D. Watkins

Sir, We are waiting for a part of our boiler which packed up almost three weeks ago, but due to the unavailability of our local three-star service ("We undertake to provide you with

priority attention and prompt efficient service" — from their latest mailshot) we have no idea when.

Having failed to reach anyone by phone for the past five days, I was given the number of Mr Bob Fraser — Director

### FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

#### Bank of Scotland Interim Results

	6 months ended 31 August 1995 (unaudited)	6 months ended 31 August 1996 (unaudited)	Year ended 29 February 1996
<b>TOTAL PROFIT FROM GROUP OPERATIONS BEFORE PROVISIONS</b>	£408.2m	£339.6m	£706.4m
<b>PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION</b>	£324.3m	£261.6m	£545.0m
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES</b>	£3,685m	£3,105m	£3,533m
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	£46,140m	£36,837m	£44,099m
<b>EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT</b>	15.0p	12.6p	25.8p
<b>DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT</b>	2.91p	2.45p	6.85p

o Pre-tax profit £324.3 million - up

24 per cent

o Pre-tax return on average equity (annualised)

36.7 per cent

o Dividend increased by 18.8 per cent

o Cost/income ratio 52.9 per cent

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

For a copy of the Bank's Annual Report and Accounts, please apply to:

Bank of Scotland, The Mount, Edinburgh EH1 2TT

## Multiplex expansion by Virgin

Virgin Cinemas has stepped up its expansion programme by announcing plans for three giant cinemas. The Virgin Cinemas Megaplex, a 20-screen complex seating about 5,000, will open in Leeds in early 1998. It will be followed by a 15-screen cinema in Bolton and an 11-screen complex in South Shields.

Virgin has disclosed plans for six new multiplexes in the next 18 months, and the company is hoping to build a total of 20 new multiplexes in the next three years. Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin, said: "These new sites, designed by us from scratch, will allow us to offer an experience which is unique in the UK cinema industry. In short, they will offer a great night out."

## Lloyd's issues ultimatum

Lloyd's of London has written to nearly 700 UK names, giving them a week in which to settle their debts or face legal proceedings. Dibb Lupton Alsop, the law firm acting for Lloyd's, despatched the letters on Tuesday evening.

The initial mailing excludes 655 non-paying names in America, where pursuit of debt is complicated by differing state legislation. It also excludes 253 names in Canada, who have been given more time to consider their position.

## NCM swoops

NCM Group, the international credit insurer based in Amsterdam, will snap up the remaining 75 per cent stake in the lending Dutch credit insurer, EKR Krediforsking, from the Danish government.

The move to privatise EKR started in April 1995, when NCM — parent of NCM Credit Insurance, the UK's largest private export credit insurer — took a 25 per cent stake.

## Benetton

Benetton's pre-tax profits for the first half of 1996 were £92 million compared with £78 million last year.

# TNT falls to A\$2bn bid by Dutch telecom firm

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

TNT, the transport and distribution giant, became the latest Australian company to fall into foreign hands yesterday when the Dutch telecom group KPN launched a \$2 billion agreed takeover bid for the group.

The bid is in line with the group's ambitious expansion drive. KPN, which has made no secret of its desire to become a global player, is offering \$2.45 in cash for every TNT share, representing a 48 per cent premium to TNT's pre-bid share price.

The acquisition will turn TNT into one of the four largest time-sensitive distribution companies in the world, with operations in 47 countries, as well as the biggest time-sensitive distribution company in Europe.

Wim Dik, chairman and chief executive of KPN, explained yesterday: "For KPN this acquisition represents a significant step in our strategy to pursue growth and international expansion of our core businesses."

He said that a key reason for the deal was to enable KPN to reap the benefits from combining TNT's operations with those of KPN's postal and logistics subsidiary, PTT Post, and GL Express Worldwide, a joint venture distribution operation in which both TNT and KPN have had an interest since 1992.

David Mortimer, TNT's managing director and chief executive, said: "This proposal represents an outstanding opportunity to create a strong global transportation group. KPN is a logical partner for our business and this is a winning proposal for both TNT and KPN."

News of the bid was warmly welcomed by analysts in Australia, who have seen TNT's share price languish around the A\$2 mark for several months in the wake of a disappointing profit performance from the group.



Alexander Baron von Spoecken, Clubhaus chairman, has gone for expansion

## Lamont may be 'forced' to close Shaw Carpets

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

LAMONT HOLDINGS, the Belfast textile company, said it may jettison Shaw Carpets after the Barnsley company incurred a £1.8 million loss for the first six months of this year.

Paul Vaught, Lamont chairman, said that despite a restructuring at Shaw in 1994 that saw the workforce reduced to 200 from 350, losses had continued. Talks had already begun with Shaw's workforce but "if no other solution can be identified Lamont will be forced to close the business", he said.

Overall, Lamont reported interim pre-tax profits of £2.1 million, down from £7.8 million for the same period last year. The 1995 figure included £4.6 million from a property deal. Operation profits, excluding Shaw Carpets, were £4.8 million, the same as in the first half of 1995.

Earnings per share fell to 4.68p from 17.96p, but the company maintained the interim dividend payment at last year's level of 3.65p, payable on December 2.

Lamont said that it was more hopeful about the future of Moygashel, its linen com-

pany, which it expected to return to profit early in 1997. The company's other operations, Alexander Drew in Rochdale, Bonded Fibre Fabric in Bristol and Northern Ireland Carpets in Newtownards had all performed satisfactorily.

Mr Vaught said he did not expect trading conditions to improve in the short term. After the resolution of the Shaw Carpet situation and improvements in Moygashel the group would be able to move forward in 1997 on a much sounder basis, he said.

In the half-year to June 30, pre-tax profits rose to £728,000, on sales of £3.14 million. While no comparative figures were given, this stood against 1995 full-year profits of £875,000 and sales of £920,000.

Earnings were 2.15p per share, but there was no dividend.

The shares gained 7p yesterday to close at 74.2p.

## Strong drive by Clubhaus lifts results

BY PRASER NELSON

EUROPEAN expansion helped Clubhaus, the golf course operator that split from Ex-Lands Group, return stronger-than-expected results in its first six months as an independent company.

In the half-year to June 30, pre-tax profits rose to £728,000, on sales of £3.14 million. While no comparative figures were given, this stood against 1995 full-year profits of £875,000 and sales of £920,000.

Earnings were 2.15p per share, but there was no dividend.

The shares gained 7p yesterday to close at 74.2p.

# Brent Walker chief 'paid £1.2m to create false profits'

BY JON ASHWORTH

A SENIOR Brent Walker executive was paid a £500,000 "reward" for orchestrating a "massive cover-up" of millions of pounds of false profits at the leisure and entertainment group, a court heard yesterday. Auditors, solicitors and investigators were repeatedly lied to, and fictitious documents created, to back up the falsehoods, it was claimed.

Money was also laundered through a "very convoluted" and "tortuous" route involving America and the Bahamas. Southwark Crown Court was told. The exercise even included appointing a dead man to head a company, said Peter Rook QC, prosecuting.

The allegations were made at the opening of the trial of Donald Anderson, a former finance director of Goldcrest. Brent Walker's film and television division. Anderson, 43, of Richmond, Surrey, was described as the "architect" of the cover-up, and one with his "fingertips" all over the concealment operation. He denies one count of attempting to pervert the course of justice between August 1, 1988, and October 23, 1990.

Mr Rook said that £19 million worth of "false profit-taking" featured in Brent Walker's film and television division between 1984 and 1987.

It involved inventing sales of film rights, which were effectively funded by the company in such a way that "money was going round in circles". The result was a bogus gloss on the company's financial health.

The jury was reminded of Brent Walker's spectacular growth during the 1980s under the "driving force" of George Walker, the chairman and chief executive.

However, in August 1988, a newspaper report questioned the "bona fides" of two of the false deals. Clearly, said Mr Rook, it would have been "catastrophic" had the truth come out about the earlier nonexistent sales. Hence the massive cover-up "in order to put investigators off the scent", he said.

In August 1991, a new Brent

Walker board called in the Serious Fraud Office to investigate "certain apparently unrelated matters". Mr Rook told the court: "It is the prosecution case that Mr Anderson left this country in the middle of 1992 because he thought the SFO were coming close to uncovering his dishonest activities." He "voluntarily" returned to Britain in November last year.

Mr Rook said a trial relating to Brent Walker took place in 1994, but he warned the jury not to speculate "as to who was the defendant, or what the charges were, or what the verdict was".

The trial continues today.

## Lavendon debut set at £29.8m

BY OUR CITY STAFF

LAVENDON, the UK's largest hydraulic-powered lifts operator, will be valued at £29.8 million when it makes its Stock Exchange debut next Thursday.

The company, formed in 1992 through a buy-in of Nationwide Access, is raising £11.3 million from the flotation, which priced the shares at 140p. It will use the cash for overseas expansion. A branch was opened in Germany in July and another is being set up in Dubai.

David Price, chairman, who invested £300,000 four years ago will have a 21 per cent stake worth £6.26 million.

In 1995, the company made profits of £1.8 million on sales of £9.88 million. It is expected to produce profits of £2.55 million by the end of 1996, leaving earnings of 12.84p. This puts its shares on a ratio of 13.25, slightly below the sector average.

# Duty-bound to keep up to date

Professionals must have a regime of mandatory post-qualifying education, says Robert Smith



Smith: public is entitled to evidence of continuing education

all British-trained chartered accountants operate outside practice. We believe that the public can reasonably expect that our members who, for example, are responsible for the preparation or presentation of financial reports in public interest entities such as listed companies, building societies and charities will also maintain and develop their knowledge and skills throughout

their professional life, and that any regime requiring their colleagues in practice to undertake continuing professional education should also apply to them.

No such regime will win the support of the public or of the profession unless it is seen to be relevant to individual needs and occupations. Clearly, the needs of the practising accountant will differ from those

of the professional accountant in the public sector, and the accountant in practice will have to take account of the needs of the public.

Outside the reserved areas,

the Government has left it to the profession to ensure that its members meet the public's expectations. More than half of

members outside practice who are covered by the scheme. We also recognise that many of our members operate in areas so divorced from the core skills of accountancy that any requirement for continuing professional learning in this area would be irrelevant.

Any such scheme should also recognise that the process is one that involves the professional in a process of continuous professional learning, which he himself prescribes and drives within the scheme, rather than the more passive process of continuing professional education, driven by the teacher in a classroom environment.

Thus, we acknowledge the value of what may be called unstructured learning, where the professional chooses and reads publications relevant to his specialist area. Alongside this will sit the requirement for structured learning at courses, seminars and conferences.

What we propose reflects a level of continuing professional learning which the vast majority of our members (and members of other accountancy bodies) will already be achieving. The mandatory nature of the proposed regime is designed to demonstrate to the public that their expectations are being met by a systematic, monitored process, which is flexible enough to allow responsible professionals to focus on specialist areas.

Robert Smith is president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Development Capital.

## Accounting error

THE latest accounts of the Chartered Accountants Compensation Scheme reveal an interesting disparity. The scheme exists to compensate victims of dastardly accountants who have made off with clients' money. It cost £121,991 in annual premiums to insure the scheme, but payouts for the year came to only £46,383. Someone is winning here. But

it doesn't seem to be accountants or their wronged clients.

ROBERT BRUCE

## Risks and rewards of squaring the circle

**M**aking financial reporting clearer and easier to understand is good for you. Or at least it is good for the accountancy firms. Possibly both. And we have the Accounting Standards Board to thank for this.

Take two of the latest surveys. The first from KPMG, deals with companies' preliminary results. The second, from Arthur Andersen, deals with the narrative reporting in an annual report. The gist of what KPMG is saying is that companies really should have noticed what you can do with technology these days. There is no reason for preliminary profit reports ahead of the publication of the annual reports and accounts. That system dates from the days when the company had the audited figures and wanted to release them to shareholders and the investment community while in the background a printing works wheezed for days over the production of the official document. Now that it is perfectly possible to produce the full report and accounts in the same time it takes to produce the preliminary figures, why not scrap the preliminaries?

The hidden message from the auditors is that preliminary results announcements, which are unaudited but are expected to resemble the truth are growing increasingly lengthy and economical with the financial facts. Or as one leading auditor put it to me this week: "I have often sat in at a client's announcement of preliminary figures and found myself increasingly wondering if they are talking about the same figures that we have audited."

So we should by all means use the excuse of faster technology to get rid of what has become a rather inaccurate system of telling the world about a company's forthcoming results. The process would move companies even closer to explaining themselves properly and clearly to their shareholders. The same is true of the messages from the Andersen survey. "If there is one thing that is guaranteed in the nanosecond Nineties, it is that there will be continual changes in corporate reporting." The biggest change in terms of the quality of financial information has been the introduction of the concept of the operating and financial review.

The ASB put it forward as a statement of best practice in July 1993 and craftily said it should be persuasive rather than mandatory. As a result, finance directors could not respond with a knee-jerk "this is yet another rule too far" argument. Instead, they had to look at what happens under the American financial reporting system where such reports have

been commonplace for years. It worked. Of the sample of reports in the Andersen survey 46 per cent either produced a formal operating and financial review or something very close to it. It tended to be the smaller companies in the survey that did not.

But the Andersen survey shows clearly where the use of such a report is not fulfilling the ASB's original hopes and intentions. It called for a discussion of "trends and factors underlying the business that have affected the results but are not expected to continue in the future, and known events, trends and uncertainties that are expected to have an impact on the business in the future".

In terms of trends identified and discussed, the survey found that fewer than 15 per cent did so and in terms of future uncertainty fewer than 20 per cent did so.

This is perhaps understandable for two reasons. First, auditors are very bad at committing themselves when it comes to auditing and quantifying what may be future risks. The liability and litigation threat almost guarantees that status. Companies themselves are traditionally terrified of quantifying any future risks or making any forecasts. In their case it is not the threat of litigation that holds them back. They simply prefer not to let shareholders or investors have any figures that could act as a measurement of success. So both companies and accountancy firms are risk averse. Or at least they are where it comes to published and auditable information.

The great paradox is that the greatest growth in corporate services in recent years has been in the field of risk management. Accountancy firms are risk management experts. But what they are doing is risk management evaluation. And by that they do not mean simply projects such as assessing how effective the internal audit function is, or whether the financial reporting system is secure. Almost any business function now comes under risk management. All business is based on risk. So all aspects of business can be analysed for risk management purposes. And it is the accountancy firms that are doing it. A customer satisfaction programme is risk. Efficient use of transport is risk. Workplace accidents are risk. So the accountants advise. It has become, almost by stealth, the biggest growth area in advisory services.

And now if the trends in financial reporting continue, the circle can be squared. Not only will accountants advise you on risks, but they will also insist that it shows up in a company's financial reporting as well.



ROBERT  
BRUCE

## Under the cover of darkness

MUCH of the current debate within the professional bodies which oversee accounting is about whether or when the Auditing Practices Board should gain its independence and shift its offices out of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants' headquarters at Moorgate Place in the City of London. But the debate has suddenly taken a significant move. The profession's joint disciplinary scheme has got there first. As if under cover of

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chartered Accountants' tax faculty told the Inland Revenue that they are around 100 years out of date, but the Chartered Institute of Taxation has produced examples of a commuting nightmare. In future, calculations will be required to show the savings created, or not, when an employee drops a child off at school on the journey to work. Time to go back to the drawing board on this one, it would appear, if not the blackboard.

## Black and white

PROPOSED new tax rules on employee travel have received the thumbs down. Not only has the English Institute of

KLM'S SUCCESS  
means a Smooth ride  
Noticeably easier.  
New heights...  
Attend a Free  
Lotto Meeting.

OBER 3 1996  
lker  
t  
'eate  
fits'

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

TELEVISION 47

51

35

• bear in  
t perform-  
• On-  
England  
• ECN  
uthority.

## Lotus Notes gives airline ground control.

How do you become a great airline? Simple. Spend more time with the customer and less time on yourself." - KLM Executive General Manager, KLM UK & Ireland

KLM's success is down to much more than leg room and complimentary choccies. A smooth running airline means a smooth ride for its passengers. When KLM adopted Lotus Notes, life on the ground was made noticeably easier. Information passes freely, ideas are shared, individuals become a team. Now, KLM reaches new heights worldwide. Now, thanks to Lotus Notes, KLM and their customers can sit back and enjoy the ride.

Attend a free Business Partner Seminar to see how your business could benefit from Lotus Notes. Call 01753 736105, quoting TK. Or visit <http://www.lotus.com/uk/solutions.htm>

**Lotus**  
Working Together

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

## Strong gains in equities and gilts

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

	High	Low	Change	Price	Yield	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>						
419 Allied Distillers 152 - 14 17.0	152	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
501 British Distillers 150 - 14 17.0	150	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
612 Chivas Regal 147 - 14 17.0	147	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
613 Grand Met 4.5 - 4.5 17.0	4.5	4.5	-0.0	4.5	11.8	16.4
512 Heublein 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
513 Imperial Dist 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
514 Johnnie Walker 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
515 Old Spice 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
516 Pernod Ricard 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
517 Seagram 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
518 Suntory 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
519 United Distillers 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
520 Wm Grants 145 - 14 17.0	145	14	-1.0	14.0	11.8	16.4
<b>BANKS</b>						
370 ABBV Am Int'l 100 - 97 17.0	100	97	-3.0	97.0	17.0	16.4
623 Abbey Natl 300 - 297 17.0	300	297	-3.0	297.0	17.0	16.4
315 Am Natl 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
316 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
524 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
317 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
318 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
319 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
320 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
321 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
322 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
323 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
324 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
325 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
326 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
327 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
328 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
329 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
330 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
331 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
332 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
333 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
334 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
335 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
336 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
337 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
338 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
339 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
340 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
341 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
342 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
343 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
344 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
345 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
346 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
347 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
348 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
349 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
350 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
<b>BREWERY'S, PUBS &amp; REST</b>						
340 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
341 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
342 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
343 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
344 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
345 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
346 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
347 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
348 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
349 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
350 Am Natl Corp 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>						
311 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
312 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
313 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
314 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
315 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
316 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
317 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
318 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
319 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
320 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
321 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
322 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
323 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
324 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
325 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
326 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
327 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
328 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
329 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
330 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>						
320 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
321 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	147.0	17.0	16.4
322 Anglo Am 150 - 147 17.0	150	147	-3.0	1		

## Hotel liable for speaker's racial offence

**Burton and Another v De Vere Hotels**

Before Mrs Justice Smith, Mrs R Chapman and Lord Gladwin of Cleve

Judgment September 18

An employer subjected employees to racial harassment when he attacked a third party who abused them racially in circumstances over which he had control and where he could have prevented the harassment or reduced the extent of it.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal said in allowing an appeal by two employees, Freda Burton and Sonia Rhule, against the decision of a Nottingham industrial tribunal November 14, 1995 that their employer, De Vere Hotels, had not discriminated against them contrary to section 4 of the Race Relations Act 1976. The case was referred to the industrial tribunal for the assessment of compensation.

Section 4 of the 1976 Act provides: "(2) It is unlawful for a person, in the case of a person employed by him ... to discriminate against that employee ... (d) ... subjecting him to ... detriment."

Ms Laura Cox, QC, and Ms Karen Monaghan for the employees; Mr Alan Wilkie, QC, for the employers.

MRS JUSTICE SMITH said that the appeal was concerned with the extent of the duty of an employer to protect his employees from acts of racial abuse or harassment in the course of work, where the abuse or harassment came from a third party, not a fellow employee.

The appellants, two young Afro-

Caribbean women, were employed as casual waitresses at the Penruine Hotel, Derby. One evening, about 400 men, members and guests of the City of Derby Round Table, attended a dinner at the hotel at which event the speaker was Bernard Manning.

The appellants heard Mr Manning make racially offensive remarks to them and created an atmosphere which probably encouraged some guests further to abuse them.

The appellants brought complaints against their employers under the 1976 Act. The industrial tribunal found that although they had suffered the detriment of racial harassment, they had been subjected to it by Mr Manning and the guests and not by the employer.

The employers had not subjected them to the detriment, first because they had neither knowingly stood by while they were abused and harassed nor had they foreseen that Mr Manning would behave in that way.

Second, the tribunal so found because, although the hotel managers ought to have given instructions to their assistants to protect the employees from the predictably offensive content of Mr Manning's speech, his failure to do so was not "less favourable treatment on racial grounds".

In the appeal tribunal's view, the tribunal below had imposed upon the employees a burden additional to that imposed by the Act, namely the burden of showing that the employers subjected them to the detriment of racial harassment on racial grounds.

However, foresight and culpability were not the means by which the employer's duty was to be defined. The duty was not to subject the employee to racial harassment. The statutory test was best understood by consideration of the true meaning of the word "subjecting".

"Subjecting" was not a word which connoted action or decision.

Rather it connoted "control". A person subjected another to some-

thing if he caused or allowed that thing to happen in circumstances where he could control whether it happened or not. An employer subjected an employee to the detriment of racial harassment if he caused or permitted the racial harassment to occur in circumstances in which he could control whether it happened or not.

The problem was to decide what an employer had to prove in order to show that the employer subjected the employee to the detriment of racial abuse or harassment, where the actual abuser or harasser was a third party and not a servant or agent of the employer for whose actions the employer would be vicariously liable. Put another way, the problem was to decide the extent of the duty of an employer to protect the employee from racial harassment from third parties.

The appeal tribunal accepted that, in practice, where an employer was shown to have actual knowledge that racial harassment of an employee was taking place, or deliberately or recklessly closed his eyes to the fact that it was taking place, if he did not act reasonably to prevent it, he would readily be found to have subjected his employee to the detriment of racial harassment.

However, foresight and culpability were not the means by which the employer's duty was to be defined. The duty was not to subject the employee to racial harassment. The statutory test was best understood by consideration of the true meaning of the word "subjecting".

"Subjecting" was not a word which connoted action or decision. Rather it connoted "control". A person subjected another to some-

thing if he caused or allowed that thing to happen in circumstances where he could control whether it happened or not.

The question of whether an employer had subjected his employee to racial harassment, where a third party was primarily responsible for the harassment, should be decided by the tribunal in its capacity as an industrial jury.

The tribunal should ask itself whether the event in question was something which was sufficiently under the control of the employer that he could, by the application of good employment practice, have prevented the harassment or reduced the extent of it. If such was its finding, then the employer had subjected the employee to the harassment.

The hotel managers ought to have warned their assistant manager to keep a look out for Mr Manning if he was seen near the waitresses if things became unpleasant. He did not do so because he did not give the matter a thought. He should have done.

If the assistant manager had been properly instructed, the two young women would not have suffered any harassment. They might possibly have heard a few offensive words before they were withdrawn, but that would have been all. Accordingly, the employer "subjected" the appellants to the racial harassment which they received from Mr Manning and the guests.

Solicitors: Mr Khursheed Drahai, Westminster; Mr David Edwards, Warrington.

## Council cannot be forced to pay for assessment of child in care

**In re C (a Minor) (Local authority; Assessment)**

Before Lord Justice Bader-Skees, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Rich

Judgment September 30

A local authority having interim care of a young child could not be directed by the court to carry out and pay for an assessment of the child together with his parents at a residential home.

Notwithstanding that it was in the child's interest that such assessment should take place, section 38(6) of the Children Act 1989 did not confer jurisdiction on the court to make such a direction.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council from the direction given by Mrs Justice Hogg sitting in Manchester in July 1996 that the child and his parents be placed at a residential assessment unit for three months before final care proceedings were heard.

The parents and the child's guardian ad litem were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

After the judgment the court

granted an application by the child's parents and the guardian ad litem for leave to move for judicial review of the local authority's decision given in 1996 by the assistant director of social services to continue the child's placement with his foster carer rather than to arrange for the residential placement.

Section 38 of the Children Act 1989 provides: "(6) Where the court makes an interim care order ... it may give such directions if any, as it considers appropriate with regard to the medical, psychiatric examination or other assessment of the child".

Mr A. Rumbelow, QC, Mr P. Haydon and Miss Gillian Irving for the parents; Ms Lesley Newton for the guardian ad litem; Mrs Jean France-Hayhurst for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that in October 1995 the child, born in June 1995, was admitted to hospital suffering from fits. A paediatrician diagnosed non-accidental head injuries.

No satisfactory explanation of the injuries while in the care of his parents had been given. There

remained a question as to whether he has suffered permanent brain damage.

The local authority was granted an interim care order and a guardian ad litem was appointed.

On discharge from hospital the child was placed with foster parents.

The parents were young, the mother aged 17 at the time of the birth and the father 16. They were immature and without satisfactory family backing.

The judge, hearing the application before the final contested care proceedings, concluded that it was in the interests of the child that the residential assessment should take place and, relying on the decision of Mr Justice Singer in *In re K.P.* (unreported, October 11, 1995), held that she had jurisdiction to make the direction under section 38(6).

Unfortunately, although not surprisingly, the judge was not provided with the Court of Appeal decision in *In re M (Minor)* (unreported, July 12, 1996) in which it was held that *In re K.P.* was wrongly decided.

Before the passing of the 1989 Act the High Court in the exercise

of its powers retained control over its wards, even while they were in local authority care.

The 1989 Act retained some elements of the wardship jurisdiction. However, it had been undermined in numerous decisions of the court that on an application before the court, the court made the decision but that when the care order was made the local authority was thereafter in the driving seat unless or until the matter came back to the court. In general the court could not impose conditions on, nor seek undertakings from, a local authority.

An exception to the general rule was when a child was placed with an authority under an interim order in accordance with section 38.

That section underlined the interface between the court and the local authority and the tensions arising therefrom.

That tension was starkly demonstrated by the present appeal. The consequences of the authority's successful objection to the judge's order were obvious and disastrous for the parents.

In *In re L (a Minor)* (unreported, May 22, 1995) Lord Justice Ward had said that section 38(6) did not give the judge power to direct where the child should reside during any assessment. He held that by making an interim care order the judge surrendered ultimate control.

In *In re M (Minor)* Lord Justice Swinton-Thomson had said that section 38(6) empowered the court "to give directions in relation to examinations or assessments of the child. It does not give the court

power to give directions in relation to assessments of the mother or the family as a whole ... nor ... does the subsection give to the judge power to direct where a child will live."

The court would be deprived of valuable information on which to assess the parents. The crucial decision of the court as to the long term future of the child would, in effect, be pre-empted by the decision of the assistant director of social services.

The issue was whether the jurisdiction of the court under section 38(6) to direct the local authority to carry out medical, psychiatric examination or other assessment of the child extended to directing a residential assessment of the child together with his parents for three months at a cost to the local authority between £10,000 and £12,000.

In the present refusal of the local authority, justifiable although it might be on resource grounds, to respond to the decision of a High Court judge that the assessment should go ahead for the sake of the child presented grave difficulties in the resolution of that tension between the court and the local authority.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Rich agreed.

Solicitors: Norcross Lees & Riches, Oldham and Temperley Taylor Chadwick, Middleton; Booth & Middleton, Oldham; Mr Andrew Jeffries, Oldham.

MR ROBIN PURCHASES, QC, sitting

## Digital images equivalent to photographs

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, provides:

"(2) References to an indecent photograph include an indecent film, a copy of an indecent photograph comprised in a film..."

"(4) References to a photograph include ... (b) data stored on a computer disc or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a photograph."

Section of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 provides:

"(2) In this Act 'article' means any description of article containing or embodying matter to be read or looked at or both, any sound record, and any film or other record of a picture or pictures."

Mr Colman Tracy, QC and Mr Alan Evans for the defendants; Mr John Minting, QC, for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said Fellows, a computer specialist at Birmingham University, had used his employers' computer to store data which enabled it to display indecent pictures of children on the computer screen and to produce prints. He had also made that data available on the Internet, so that other computers worldwide could receive and display similar screen images and produce identical prints.

Fellow had controlled access to the archive by means of a password. Arnold was a recipient of material from Fellows' archive, having published an obscene article contrary to section 2 of the 1959 Act.

That decision was a direct authority on the issues raised under the 1959 Act in the instant appeal. It was also relevant to the construction of the 1978 Act, because the court acknowledged that it was at least doubtful whether in 1959 Parliament had envisaged that video cassettes would become widely available and so provide a means for obscene displays contrary to the Act.

His Lordship reviewed the terms of the 1978 Act and decided that although the computer disk was not a photograph it was "a copy of an indecent photograph". The disk contained data, not visible to the eye, which could be converted by appropriate technical means into a screen image and into a print which exactly reproduced the original photograph from which it was derived.

The judge had dismissed those arguments and the defendants had then pleaded guilty.

The judge had taken a broad purposive approach, interpreting the statutes so as to enable them to encompass the storage of pornographic material on computer and its electronic transmission.

The central issue raised by the appeal arose from the fact that in 1959 and 1964 when the Obscene Publications Acts were passed and even in 1978 when the Protection of Children Act was passed, Parliament could not have envisaged the precise capabilities of modern technology, in particular the ability of computers to store data which enabled them to reduce photographs which could be retrieved by any other computer linked telephonically to the storage computer worldwide.

The first appellant had created a data archive stored in the hard disk of the Birmingham computer which was derived from pornographic photographs of children which could be downloaded by other computer users who knew

to their being shown to others. The appeals would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Glaysers, Birmingham; Crown Prosecution Service, Birmingham.

## Priority housing need

**Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Bishop**

The correct construction of section 59(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1985 for the purposes of deciding whether an applicant had priority need for housing under Part III of that Act where dependent children were involved was that the child had to be dependent at least in part upon the applicant.

Mr Robin Purchas, QC, sitting

## Bank need not obey demand for conjectural papers

**Regina v O'Kane and Another, Ex parte Northern Bank Ltd**

**Regina v McKnight and Others, Ex parte Northern Bank Ltd**

Before Mr Justice Ferris

Judgment August 21

A person required to produce documents pertaining to inland revenue investigations by a notice under section 20(3) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 fell into the established category of a "mere witness" and not a "witness in chief" within the meaning of section 20(1) of the Finance Act 1976.

It was clear that outside the scope of the statutory provisions of the kind with which his Lordship was concerned, the court had recognised a general principle that a mere witness was not to be required to give discovery.

That meant that the witness could not be required to search through his records to see which, if any of them, might be material to the case. In part that was because a mere witness would not ordinarily know what were the issues in the case.

But different considerations applied where the witness could be told what documents he was to look for and to produce. That principle was well established that the legislator had intended that a witness in chief could be treated as a mere witness if clear words were used. A party in the position of the bank in relation to the investigation of the tax liability of one of its customers was a "mere witness".

Section 20(3) of the 1970 Act substituted for the original section by section 57(1) and Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 1976 and amended by sections 14(2)(b) to (g), (10) and 16(7) and Schedule 7 of the Finance Act 1989, provides:

"... an inspector may, for the purpose of inquiring into the tax liability of any person ... by notice in writing require any other person to deliver to the inspector or, if the person to whom the notice is given so elects, to make available for inspection by a named officer of the board, such documents and as far as practicable, any other documents which may be necessary for the purpose of the inquiry ..."

It followed that those items which were in the schedules which were expressed in terms which indicated that the draftsmen of the notice did not know whether such documents edited but required the board to consider and inquire whether they did, and if they did to search them and produce them for inspection were outside the scope of section 20(3).

"... Record of any deeds ..."

"... Any document, notes etc indicating the existence of any other accounts operated by [named taxpayer]".

Mr David Goldberg, QC and

Mr Cameron Markby Hewitt, Treasury Solicitor.

THE TIMES

MERCURY MUSIC PRIZE

ALBUMS of the YEAR

Oasis Underworld Courtney Love Black Sabbath Black Grape Pop Morrissey

MUSIC STREET PREACHER Peter Murphy David Attenborough

Arts for War Child

READER OFFER — THE TIMES

THE TIMES

MERCURY MUSIC PRIZE

CD TOKEN 5

CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES



■ FILM 1

Hollywood raids the library again to make a cool and gritty version of *Hardy's Jude*



■ FILM 2

Daft laughs wear thin as Eddie Murphy remakes a Jerry Lewis classic, *The Nutty Professor*



■ FILM 3

Meg Ryan and Co delve into the Gulf War's greyer areas in *Courage Under Fire*



■ FILM 4

*Touch of Evil*, Orson Welles's creepy thriller, is given a new lease of life

CINEMA: Geoff Brown hails a touching performance by a rising young star in a *Jude* obscured by rain and snow

# Winslet wonderful as Wessex girl

**A**nother week, and another milestone of Eng Lit lands in the cinemas. Not that Thomas Hardy's last novel, *Jude the Obscure*, is an obvious candidate for celluloid pretification. There is no social comedy among sequins and crinoline. No rolling green hills, nor pealing church bells.

The very first scene of Michael Winterbottom's film — it bears the blunt title *Jude* — thrusts us into an oppressive world, shot in stark black-and-white through the wide-angle lens of Eduardo Serra. A ploughed field. Circling rooks. Young Jude feeds them, when he should be scaring them. The farmer whips him for his pains.

Subsequent scenes move into



Kate Winslet gives a "mesmerising, beautifully modulated performance" as Sue Bridehead, seen here at the grave of her son, in Michael Winterbottom's otherwise disappointing *Jude*

colour. The sun sometimes shines, but the dominant mood remains bleak. Snow blankets the land, or rain tumbles down on to grey stone. There is no festa, least of all in the hearts of stonewalled Jude (Christopher Eccleston) and his cousin Sue (Kate Winslet) as they struggle against fate and society's disapproval of unmarried lovers.

Winterbottom loves the fierceness and grit in Hardy's book. This is the man who littered our motorways with corpses in *Butterfly Kiss*, and, on television, held up the mirror to Roddy Doyle's fractious *Family*. Finding modern Dorset too wet to stand in for Hardy's Wessex, he sent his cameras north, to Yorkshire, Northumberland and Edinburgh, in search of savage landscapes and unadorned stone. He also encouraged the writer Hossein Amini to scratch period words from his script, and manufacture a forceful, contemporary-sounding tale of dashed hopes and love fighting against the odds.

Aside from a few over-busting crowds and clipp-clapping horses, Winterbottom successfully achieves his lean, mean, modern style. But at what cost? By underlining the grimness of Hardy's story he risks emotional monotony and audience disenchantment. And the import of events is often stunted by the script's compression of Hardy's episodic writing. Characters chase each other from place to place at an almost comical speed. One second we hear that Jude had sired a child with his absent wife, good-time girl Arabella; the next the boy stands at the

quayside, shipped all the way from Australia.

Winterbottom's cool, fractured style places a special burden on the performers. Eccleston's Jude, the stonewall who longs to better himself by learning, is as pained and sensitive as he needs to be, although he could not spot a joke if it fell on his head. So for warmth we must look to Sue Bridehead, the cousin who plunges into a mistaken marriage with Jude's former schoolteacher, Phillotson. Winslet, flinty and vivacious, dances through the early scenes, but by the end she is wan, drained of life by fate's hard knocks. Hers is a mesmerising, beautifully modulated performance, and she gives *Jude* a real shot in the arm: not quite enough, though, to prevent audiences themselves feeling drained of life.

If you need a barrel of laughs, there is always Eddie Murphy and his remake of Jerry Lewis's *The Nutty Professor*, an inspired variation on *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. The hero actually looks like a barrel: Professor Sherman Klump weighs 400lb, and can rub off the writing on his blackboard with an accidental

whisk of his tum. In Lewis's original, 33 years ago, the character was a nerdy weed, teeth and glasses permanently askew; but Murphy's revisions allow for fat jokes galore before the potion is drunk and Klump slims down to his alter ego of Buddy Love, a campus Casanova and braggart deluge.

**B**ut are the jokes funny? Yes, at first. Murphy's Klump may be a creature built from foam and make-up, but he still suggests a real human being, sweet and charming. Even when the Klump family congregates for a fusillade of jokes about food and farting, the outrageousness of the comedy softens the crash as the bad taste barrier is broken. (It had to break some time, for the film's director is Tom Shadyac, maestro of *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective*.) There is also another technical stunt to enjoy: Murphy plays all the family members, one child excepted.

But the fun does not last. The film starts losing its appeal once Love takes over Klump's life. Playing a brash, strutting Romeo is nothing unusual for Eddie Murphy, so the

film strays into barren territory. And, as the jokes and vulgarities pile up, you long for the warmth of the earlier scenes when Klump bumped into electric switches, broke a trampoline or shone with quiet delight at an attractive young woman's attention.

*Courage Under Fire* hails from Edward Zwick, the man who leads a double life as the director of patriotic epics (*Glory*) and the creator of chic TV (*Thirtysomething*). This is a Desert Storm story, and audiences outside America will have to wrestle with the film's unquestioning acceptance of the Gulf War's validity.

Patrick Sheane Duncan's artful script does ask some questions, however. Pushed to the backrooms after accidentally invoking friendly fire on one of his own tanks in the desert, Denzel Washington's Lieutenant-Colonel is asked to prepare a report on a Captain's suitability for a posthumous Medal of Honor. The master should be simple, particularly when the officer is a woman (Meg Ryan); but, as Washington's pain grows over his own Gulf exploits, he discovers conflicting accounts of her behaviour. A tower of strength — or

a quivering coward? Sharp, short flashbacks suggest different answers: this is almost the *Rashomon* of war movies.

For a time these guilts and mysteries prove engaging. But the more Washington delves into Ryan's behaviour, the more her character becomes a gaping hole. Snatched only in brief flashbacks, we never get to know this Captain Karen Walden: she is just Ryan in battle dress. And, by sweeping under the carpet much of war's chaos, the film trivialises Washington's inner battles. The great, probing American movie about Desert Storm is still to be made.

Stories differ over how Orson Welles came to make *Touch of Evil* in 1957, his last brush with the Hollywood studios after years of exile. Some say that after a convivial night he bravely asked to direct the worst script on the shelf of Albert Zugsmith, a maverick producer for Universal. Others, including Welles himself, have said that he was bumped up from actor to director on the project through the powers of Charlton Heston (cast as the narcotics agent Vargas).

Whatever the circumstances, Welles threw all his energies into this astonishing thriller: so much so that his baroque visual style and love of seedy atmosphere swamp the story of murky happenings on the Mexican border. Welles's bulky physical presence dominates too: even Heston is cut down to size by his corrupt detective Hank Quinlan, decay oozing from every pore. The famous opening travelling shot sets the scene with a tremendous flourish, and the visual wonders never stop. This is an unbalanced film, but a great one.

Placed alongside *Touch of Evil*, a worthy new film such as *Letters from the East* has all the gleam of a dead fish. Andrew Grieve's inert drama focuses on an Estonian-born woman (Ewa Fröling), long in England, searching for her lost mother as the old country gropes towards independence. Britain, Germany, Finland, Sweden and the European honeypot all helped to fund the project; but this dull, over-earnest film never gives an audience of any nationality sufficient reason to plonk down money at the box office.

**THE NUTTY PROFESSOR**  
Richard: Usually I like Eddie Murphy, but here I found him predictable and tiresome.

Holly: I didn't like this at all — even the adverts on the Tube for it put me off. This isn't even worth buying on video in the £2 dumpbin.

Ben: If this were better directed then I would have enjoyed it a lot more, as I found the story and Murphy quite good fun. However, it wasn't and I didn't.

Lucy: This was a clumsy film — it took the mickey out of fat people and then told us, *Forrest Gump-style*, to accept everybody despite their failings.

**COURAGE UNDER FIRE**

Richard: Any war film that has Meg Ryan in it can't be that bad. The opening sequence is awesome, and Denzel Washington puts in a fine performance.

Holly: I expected to hate this — anything to do with war bores me — but I found it quite gripping.

Ben: I suppose Gulf War films will soon replace Vietnam films. I'm getting quite bored with jungle, so it's nice to see some sand. Good stuff for a Friday night with the boys.

Lucy: Not really for me, despite Washington's good performance. Still, if your boyfriend drags you along you won't complain too much.



## Step aside, Oasis, the hard men are back

**I**t is a cruel irony that Suede, who carried the torch for new British pop single-handedly during 1992 and 1993, should have been eclipsed by the Britpop explosion they did so much to inspire. Their third album, *Coming Up*, briefly topped the charts a month ago, and their press releases still optimistically refer to them as "officially the best band in the world". But theirs is now just one of several competing claims to the title and, having been the Oasis of their day, they have now dropped to the status of underdog.

On the second night of their British tour, at Glasgow's Barrowland, they handled the new situation with the same dignity and strength of resolve that they have always exhibited. With the stage bathed in pools of blood-red light they entered to the strains of a pseudo string arrangement of *She*, which gave way to Simon Gilbert's heavy pounding drumbeat then, as Brett Anderson shimmied up to the microphone stand, the simply exploded into life, powering their way in quick succession through *Trash*, *Heroine* and *Animal Nitrate*, with a sense of gleeful urgency.

New member Neil Codling

POP

Suede  
Glasgow

that was an absolute joy to behold.

It was a sensational start to a set that threw into sharp relief the stodgy performance values that have come to be regarded as the norm among their Britpop successors. It was certainly a far more entertaining display than the thug-boy posturing and routine three-chord strumming of Oasis, whatever the relative appeal of Noel Gallagher's songs.

Guitarist Richard Oakes has metamorphosed from the timid schoolboy who stood self-consciously rooted to the spot during their tour of 1994-95 into a guitar god. Not only did he play brilliantly — from the stabbing metallic shapes of *So Young* to the delicate lifting cadences of *By the Sea* — but he fully looked the part, chasing the bear with little jolts of his head and stamping his personality on the show.

David Sinclair

• Suede play the Octagon, Sheffield, tonight. De Montfort Hall, Leicester, tomorrow. Victoria Hall, Hanley, on Saturday; Town and Country, Leeds, on Monday; Hull City Hall, on Tuesday; and Kilburn National, London, on Thursday

fleshed out the sound with discreet keyboard parts, but made his most telling contribution to the night as a backing vocalist, his harmonies, especially on *The Wild Ones*, lending extra melodic richness to the songs.

Brett Anderson

It was Anderson who led the way with purposeful authority. Looking about a stone lighter than when the band last toured, he performed with tremendous energy and style, twirling the microphone above his head, but somehow managing not to hit anything except the intended notes.

There were lots of technical reasons for admiring this show — whether it be the clever lighting design, the subtle changes of backdrop or simply the brash elegance of it all. But at the end of the day it was just brilliant to have them back.

David Sinclair

**HMV**  
MUSIC FROM THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK BY ANNE DUDLEY  
OUT NOW CD & CASSETTE

## HOLLOW REED



Includes  
"I Shall Be Released"  
performed by  
Paul Weller

If you can't get to an HMV store call HMV on 0990 22 45 73.  
The music you want goes to your door.



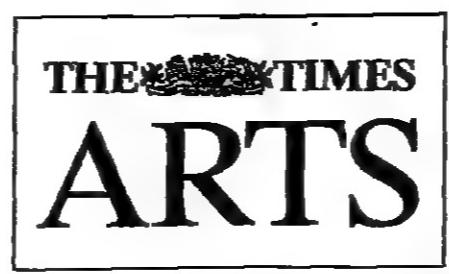
## ■ VISUAL ART

Pop goes the easel: Peter Blake has fun with the Old Masters at the National Gallery



## ■ THEATRE 1

Ian Brown leaves the Traverse for a date at the Donmar with Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*



## ■ THEATRE 2

The Royal Court maintains its name for provocative drama with a new rent-boy play



## ■ TOMORROW

Game for a fiddle: will Ken Campbell's *Violin Time* enchant the National?

# California dreaming

**VISUAL ART:** Peter Blake crosses new boundaries through the Old Masters in his new exhibition. Isabel Carlisle reports

The National Gallery recently announced that it was handing over all its post-1900 paintings to the Tate, and then a week later opened a show by Pop artist Peter Blake. What is it up to? Clearly it recognises that rational boundaries can be positively stifling when it comes to creativity, especially when that creativity includes making an essentially static national collection come alive again and again in different ways.

Bringing a living artist in to shake up the Old Masters forces a new take on the collection. Whether that artist's work should then be measured against the gallery's permanent paintings is not the point. Blake's exhibition sets up a visible dialogue between the art of today and that of the past: the creativity lies in removing boundaries and making connections.

Peter Blake is not one to pay heed to boundaries; he has made the in-between world of fantasy and disjunction his own territory. He continues to prove his ability to reinvent himself by turning to new subjects and exploring new techniques. As artist in residence at the National Gallery for the past two years, he has come up with a show based on the permanent collection that in its humour cracks a snook at those who take art too seriously, and in its serious handling of pain reminds us that art is a process, not just a finished picture.

Blake has slipped Old Masters into his collage works in the past. He produced a reprise of Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* in 1966 in which 3-D lettering reduced that Victorian icon to instant kitsch. In the early Eighties he based his *Have a Nice Day, Mr Hockney* on Courbet's *Bonjour Monsieur Courbet*. Blake's painting hangs in the opening section of this exhibition as a reference point, with a postcard of the Courbet next to it. In transposing the three figures of Courbet's painting to the present-day boardwalk on Venice Beach, California — casting David Hockney as Courbet, Peter Blake as his patron and Howard Hodgkin as his deferential servant — Blake introduces his characteristic flavour of unreality.

At the National Gallery, Blake has gone on to produce a whole series of *Venice Beach Madonnas*, taking madonnas by Old Masters and importing them wholesale into Venice Beach settings to produce a startling contrast between then and now. Directly copied from Dieric Bouts, the Netherlandish madonna in *Madonna of Venice Beach I* offers the naked Christ child her breast (an act of public indecency which the

LAPD would crack down on fast) right on the edge of the rollerskating path. She is as much locked into her own world as the two skaters in the foreground are locked into sun, sea and the cult of the body beautiful. It is funny; it shocks; it is beautifully painted; but it ultimately disappoints by being tricky and facile in the way that an obvious formula inevitably becomes facile.

Blake's greatest success in the "Old Masters go to California" genre is *After Longhi: Exhibition of a Rhinoceros at Venice*. The foreground is Longhi's scene of masked figures in carnival dress looking down on the rhinoceros in his pen; behind, the Venice Beach boardwalk with rollerskaters and palm trees; and along the back a high wall painted with snippets of frescoes by Tiepolo. Eighties California (note the absence of in-line skates) is sandwiched between two layers of 18th-century Venice. The bare flesh of Tiepolo's decorous women sets up an intriguing contrast between the artistic nude and the photographically derived naked limbs of the skaters.

Pure frivolity and fun take over in *The Venuses' Outing to Weymouth*, complete with 1930s charabanc in the far distance. It's a game of "spot the artist" with sunbathing lovelies copied from Venuses by Titian, Giorgione, Velázquez, Cranach, Correggio and Bronzino. Two attendant cupids play cricket on the beach originally painted by Constable. Being unfinished, it has a spontaneity and visible delight in handling paint.

This looser technique becomes wonderfully sensual in *After a Copy of Michelangelo's Leda and the Swan*. To his contemporaries Michelangelo was famous for his ability to excel in both sculpture and paint. Today his contours look unfiendishly hard and his colours far removed from the glow of 16th-century Venetian painting.

Blake has come up with a Titian-esque rendering of one of the most erotic paintings in the National Gallery. Michelangelo, in the lost original of this work, was repeating the classical tradition of explicit depictions of the coupling of Zeus, in the form of a swan, with the mortal Leda. Blake's is a work in progress in thin oil that stain rather than coat the canvas, but I find the effect glorious: it should be left as it is. I would guess that Blake, like so many artists before him, has found in copying the Old Masters a new way forward in his art.

Now We Are 64 is in the Sunley Room, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-839 3321) until Jan 5



Madonna of Venice Beach I, from a series by Blake that puts madonnas by Old Masters into beach settings

**THEATRE:** Ian Brown tells why he gave up job security for the precarious life of a freelance director; plus a new play with few expletives deleted

## New labour, different dangers

**J**ob security has never been one of the employment benefits enjoyed by arts workers in general and theatre practitioners in particular. Even so, it might seem strange — foolhardy, even — for a

director who has established himself at the head of one of the country's most respected and successful producing theatres to step down and pursue a freelance career.

But, after eight years as

artistic director of Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre, Ian Brown is looking forward to a bit of insecurity. "It's going to be an interesting balance between earning a living and being true to my artistic side," he says. "I have to prove myself. I have to compete on the open market. But that is the adventure. You can't just sit back and let the money roll in."

With the standard rates for freelance directors being what they are — Cameron Mackintosh musicals excepted — there seems little chance of that. Brown may have arrived in London without, as he puts it, "a huge mountain of work", but it seems unlikely his diary will stay blank for long. His first production for the Donmar Warehouse, a revival of Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*, opens tonight. Then he will direct the first stage adaptation of an Armistead Maupin novel — *Babycakes* from the *Tales of the City* series — for Clyde Unity Theatre in the new year. Planned for next spring is the European premiere of Ariel Dorfman's *Windows*.

Not bad for a self-proclaimed "new director in town", the man who accepted the Donmar job because "Sam Mendes was the first person to make me an offer". In fact, the only thing that seems to be missing from Brown's current schedule is the endless stream of paperwork that inevitably taxes an artistic director. He denies, though, that this was a factor in his departure from the Traverse.

"A myth went round that I left because the administrative burden was so horrendous I wasn't prepared to do it any more, but that's just baloney."

It is hard work trying to marry the two sides of the job, but if

you are going to run a theatre, that's what you do."

Brown concedes that he did find the continual round of funding battles exhausting, but says he left the Traverse for entirely personal reasons — "to do different things in different situations."

"I felt that I'd been there long enough. I strongly believe that artistic directors should move on and let somebody else have a go. I would have been quite happy to stay in Scotland."

With the standard rates for

freelance directors being what they are — Cameron Mackintosh musicals excepted — there seems little chance of that. Brown may have arrived in London without, as he puts it, "a huge mountain of work", but it seems unlikely his diary will stay blank for long. His first production for the Donmar Warehouse, a revival of Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*, opens tonight. Then he will direct the first stage adaptation of an Armistead Maupin novel — *Babycakes* from the *Tales of the City* series — for Clyde Unity Theatre in the new year. Planned for next spring is the European premiere of Ariel Dorfman's *Windows*.

Not bad for a self-proclaimed "new director in town", the man who accepted the Donmar job because "Sam Mendes was the first person to make me an offer". In fact, the

only thing that seems to be

missing from Brown's current schedule is the endless stream of paperwork that inevitably taxes an artistic director. He denies, though, that this was a factor in his departure from the Traverse.

"A myth went round that I left because the administrative burden was so horrendous I wasn't prepared to do it any more, but that's just baloney."

It is hard work trying to marry the two sides of the job, but if

you are going to run a theatre, that's what you do."

Brown concedes that he did

find the continual round of

funding battles exhausting,

but says he left the Traverse

for entirely personal reasons

— "to do different things in

different situations."

"I felt that I'd been there

long enough. I strongly believe

that artistic directors should

move on and let somebody else

have a go. I would have been

quite happy to stay in Scotland."

With the standard rates for

freelance directors being what

they are — Cameron Mackintosh

musicals excepted — there

seems little chance of that.

Brown concedes that he did

find the continual round of

funding battles exhausting,

but says he left the Traverse

for entirely personal reasons

— "to do different things in

different situations."

## A four-letter world

## Shopping Ambassadors

THE title of Mark Ravenhill's first play is not publishable in full in a nice family newspaper, and appears in an oddly bowdlerised form even on the placards outside what used to be the Ambassadors, and now calls itself the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs in exile. *Shopping and Whoring*, these proclaim in good wink-wink, nudge-nudge style. The impression given — all the stronger because Soho is hard by — is that behind the ornate foyer is Britain's latest contribution to convenience buying, a supermarket-cum-brothel. Girls on the shelves, cans of tomatoes in the beds, and reward cards for particularly loyal customers in dirty macs.

Actually, those who venture into the theatre in that frame of mind won't be wholly disappointed. There are no tomatoes on sale, which probably irked the man who stomped out halfway through Act II, looking as if he would like to throw one or two at the stage. But there is a fair amount of simulation of gay sex, some of it pretty adolescent, some more complete.

What Caesar's soldiers famously did to a Druid in Howard Brenton's *Romans in Britain*, a couple of London layabouts do to the saddest of Ravenhill's sad characters, a 14-year-old runtboy escaping a sexually rapacious stepfather.

I daresay the play will pick

up reviews along the lines of

Sarah Kane's *Blasted*, which

included scenes of cannibalism

and eye-gouging as well as rape.

But we must expect the

Court to bl.

CHRISTOPHER BOWEN

• *Fool for Love* runs from tonight

until November 30 at the Donmar Warehouse, Earls Court WC2

(071-369 732)



Kate Ashfield as Lulu in a drama of disenchantment

ished from Sloane Square. Equally, we should expect Max Stafford-Clark's Out of Joint, the company presenting the play, to be out of joint. And the play is not an exercise in titillation but the latest contribution to a growing genre, the drama of disenchantment, the theatre of urban ennui.

But is it an effective contribution or, as I sometimes feel, a derivative one? The bleakness of Ravenhill's young London is not in doubt. The characters inhabit a sub-world in which shopping means stealing frozen Thai meals from Tesco and a job consists of selling Ecstasy for a sentimental suburbanite who is nevertheless prepared to punish debtors with chair-saws. Antony Ryding's Gary, the 14-year-old selling his favours above an amusement arcade, typifies the town. So

does James Kennedy's Mark, a recovering druggie simultaneously yearning for and in flight from human affection.

With Robin Soans, Kate Ashfield and Andrew Clever completing the cast, the acting does not lack quality. But my personal jury will remain out on Ravenhill's writing until his next play. I would like to think that the scenes in which Gary begs for a father to rape him, or implores his attackers to destroy his bowels with screwdrivers, come from genuine horror at a sick world. But I did wonder if Ravenhill was whipping himself into a state of formulaic dismay at the awfulness of things. Either way, the effect is of a southern *Trainspotting* with more sex and fewer laughs.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## A GALA CELEBRATION OF VIVIAN ELLIS

FEATURING: Sir John Mills, Avril Angers, Lionel Bart, Christopher Biggins, Philip Bird, Don Black, Clare Burt, Maurice Clark, John Dalby, Ray C. Davis, Janie Dee, Janet Dibley, Fenella Fielding, Rabbi Helen Freedman, Edward Goggins, Valerie Grove, Phyllida Hancock, Jan Hartley, Ruthie Henshall, Graham Hooley, Katey Crawford Kastin, Dillie Keane, Denis Lawson, Rosemary Leach, Helen Lederer, Robert Meadmore, Keith Michell, Sheridan Morley, Jonathon Morris, Mike Reed, Sheila Reid, Thelma Ruby, Frances Ruffelle, Fiona Sinnott, Frank Thornton, Wendy Toye, Sally Ann Triplett, Lizbeth Webb, Paula Wilcox and Susannah York.

Plus surprise guests on the night.  
Directed by Dan Crawford  
**at The Adelphi Theatre**  
**Sunday October 6 at 7.30pm**  
Tickets £10 / £15: Available from Ticketmaster  
**0171 344 4444**

All proceeds to the Vivian Ellis Prize

land, but the opportunities just aren't there any more. Not on a full-time basis."

Which brings us to the other rumour that has circulated — particularly among London theatre observers — about Brown's decision to leave the Traverse: namely, that Scottish theatre has become a bit parochial and its writers stuck in a nostalgic rut.

"I don't think that's true at all," he says. "Scottish theatre has its problems just now, but they are mainly to do with the slow starving to death of

theatre through lack of funding. You can't justify a theatre's existence unless it is able to produce a reasonable body of work, and you will only get good product coming out of a theatre if it can produce enough work to have some major hits and plays that maybe aren't commercial, but nevertheless need to be done. Theatre needs to invest in longer rehearsal periods and give writers a bit more breathing space, but there is a price that has to be paid for that."

Risk-free theatre is a tactic

that Brown has never employed himself. The not inconsiderable highlights of his years at the Traverse were never obvious from the start. Stephen Mulrine's adaptation of *Moscow Stations*, which transferred, with Tom Courtenay, to London and New York, and James Keenan's *Hardie and the Baird*, were, Brown says, almost anti-theatrical. Brad Fraser's *Poor Superman* and Harry Gibson's original adaptation of *Trainspotting* were huge risks. Even the success of Sue Glover's *Bondedgers* — by general consensus, the biggest hit of Brown's Traverse tenure — took him by surprise.

Ravenhill, by comparison, might be considered a safe commercial bet these days. But *Fool for Love* is, Brown says, not to be underestimated. "It is one of those hermetically sealed plays. A bit like Beckett, it exists as an entity and it doesn't give up its secrets easily. Sure, it's a risk, but that's what makes it worthwhile."

Christopher Bowen

• *Fool for Love* runs from tonight

until November 30 at the Donmar Warehouse, Earls Court WC2

(071-369 732)

CHRISTOPHER BOWEN

• *Fool for Love* runs from tonight

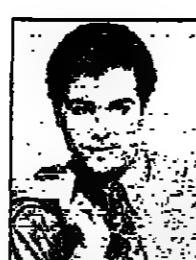
OCTOBER 3 1996  
■ TOMORROW  
Game for a  
fiddler will  
Ken Campbell;  
Violin Time  
enchant the  
National;  
RTS

t and  
show  
RADIO LAYAR

THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

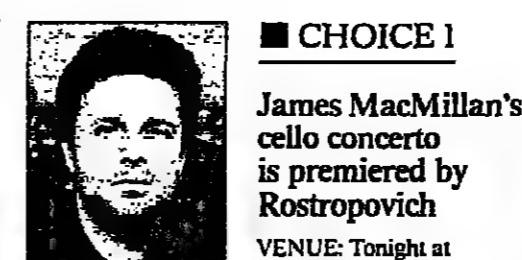


**■ NEW VIDEOS**  
Intrigue in big  
wigs: lavish  
sets and miles  
of ruffles in the  
costume drama  
*Restoration*



**■ NEW CDS**  
Absent from  
Covent Garden,  
but thrilling  
on disc Roberto  
Alagna excels  
in *Don Carlos*

## THE TIMES ARTS



**■ CHOICE 1**  
James MacMillan's  
cello concerto  
is premiered by  
Rostropovich

VENUE: Tonight at  
the Barbican



**■ CHOICE 2**  
Mahler's epic  
Eighth Symphony  
is performed  
in Manchester

VENUE: Tonight at the  
Bridgewater Hall

# Downey has his day in court

## ■ NEW ON VIDEO

**■ RESTORATION**  
*Buena Vista, 15, 1995*  
YOU begin by gazing with awe at the lavishness of Charles II's court, and the wanton ways of the King's favourite physician (Robert Downey Jr.). Then early enjoyment of this adaptation of Ross Tremain's novel drains away when the hero reforms and does good deeds. Director Michael Hoffman and his technical team work wonders on a medium budget; if only we cared more about the human beings. With Sam Neill, Meg Ryan and, briefly, Hugh Grant. Available to rent.

**■ DRACULA**  
*CIC, PG, 1931*  
"I AM Dracula," Bela Lugosi intones in sepulchral Hungarian tones, "I bid you welcome." Later adventures of the Transylvanian count featured better bats, livelier direction and less theatrical ham; here the Universal studio is still finding its stylistic fangs and relying too much on the stage source. Essential viewing nonetheless, with chunks of eerie splendour and expressive camerawork by the German émigré Karl Freund. Director, Tod Browning.

**■ SAFETY LAST**  
*Connisseur, PG, 1923*  
HAROLD LLOYD'S comedy contains one of the great images of all cinema: Harold clinging to a collapsing clockface high up on a skyscraper. But there is much more to enjoy in this breezy tale of a 1920s go-getter trying to make his fortune in the big city to earn his sweetheart's hand. Gags,



Expecting royalties: Hugh Grant and Robert Downey Jr fail to attract in Michael Hoffman's *Restoration*

characterisations and action thrills are perfectly blended. Another Lloyd silent, the charming *The Kid Brother*, is also available. Both carry new music scores by Carl Davis.

**■ WHITE SQUALL**  
*First Independent, 12, 1995*  
AT FIRST this sea adventure seems piffling: the usual rites of passage stuff, and young chafing against authority. Then Jeff Bridges's schooner, a floating school for teenage boys voyaging to the

Galapagos Islands, is hit by big waves and a whirlwind of water. Director Ridley Scott sweeps audiences away with the panic and chaos of the "white squall". But after this high point, the film, like the ship itself, has nowhere to go but down. Available to rent.

**■ ULYSSES' GAZE**  
*Artificial Eye, 12, 1995*  
HARVEY KETTLE seems more symbol than human being as the expatriate film-maker returning to his Balkan

heritage to trace fragments of a pioneering film shot in 1905. Director Theo Angelopoulos, a master of visual poetry, attempts to honour cinema's centenary, the current Bosnian conflict, Greek myth and his own personal concerns all at once — a grand, impossible task. But just watch that sailing ship, pale blue from masthead to prows, eking into the grey harbour: sheer magic.

GEOFF BROWN

## NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Nocturnal passion; a jazzman takes on Mozart; a cracking *Carlos*

### CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

#### ■ CHOPIN

Nocturnes  
Marin-João Pires  
DG 447 096-2 \*\*\*★

IT IS with some trepidation that a critic even dares to write about Maria-João Pires these days. Such is her dislike of being "sold in the market", and so great is her fear of the distractions of the trappings of a public career from the real business of music-making, that one fears she may scuttle back to her caravan in the Portuguese countryside and play only for friends.

However, it has to be said that her latest double-disc of the complete Chopin Nocturnes has found its way straight to the top of my small pile of records of the year. From the first phrase, the listener knows this is the real thing. Here is a passion, a concentrated eloquence undistracted by ego, and a simplicity born of long gestation and quiet thought. Each Nocturne

is characterised by an exuberant strength of purpose, whether it be in open-voiced song — the second and eighth works are pure *bel canto* for the piano, with ornaments which never merely decorate but intensify the line — or in the dark undercutting swirling beneath the apparent non-chalance of No. 14.

Like Krystian Zimerman's Preludes, the Nocturnes of Pires reveal new, visionary insight into Chopin which neither the casual listener nor the collector will wish to miss.

#### ■ PROKOFIEV

Barry Millington

**■ MOZART**  
Piano Concertos K488, 595 & 467; Masonic Funeral Music; Symphony No 40  
Jarrett/Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra/Davies  
ECM 1565/66 \*\*\*★

KEITH JARRETT has been bringing his jazz-rooted, improvisatory approach to bear fruitfully on Bach's music for some time. In this set he

presents three Mozart piano concertos with mixed success.

His playing is often sensitive and thoughtful, with some freshly conceived embellishments in the slow movements. His tempos, however, tend towards the deliberate, especially in K488, with the result that his fingerwork sounds somewhat pedestrian. There is a tendency, too, to make all voices of equal weight, so that broken chords intended to be accompanimental attain unwarranted prominence. To some extent, the beautifully clear, forward recording quality exacerbates that failing, though for the most part it is an undoubted asset.

The orchestral playing under Dennis Russell Davies is immaculately blended and there are some splendidly pungent sonorities in the Masonic Funeral Music. The G Minor Symphony K590 is stylishly done, with a true sense of mystery in the slow movement.

The booklet contains a long, well-written essay on the works played but no track listings are given.

### OPERA

John Higgins

#### ■ VERDI

*Don Carlos*  
Matila/Meier/Alagna/  
Hampson/Van Dam/  
Orchestra de Paris/Pappano  
EMI 7243 5 56152 2  
(3 CDs) \*\*\*★

EMI recorded Luc Bondy's production of *Don Carlos* at the Châtelet in Paris last spring before it came to London. They chose well. Roberto Alagna was in freshest voice in the title role and Antonio Pappano is a conductor with all the blood of the theatre in his veins.

Live performances carry a few penalties, including here the need to keep the volume turned well up. Fail to do that and some of the off-stage choruses will be missed. But the gain is a set which fairly vibrates with dramatic power. Pappano, who converts the Orchestre de Paris into a world-class band, makes even the middle act, where Verdi's inspiration can take a dip,

sound consistently impressive.

In this five-act French version, Alagna establishes his mark immediately. His boyish infatuation with Elisabeth in Fontainebleau is already flecked with desperation and this becomes ever more pronounced as Carlos sees his hopes ebb away. Properly sung as here, their meeting at the Spanish court has Verdi wringing tears from his listeners. This is Alagna's best interpretation to date on disc and the same can be said of Karita Matila's Elisabeth, coolly Nordic in her isolation until she pours out her heart in the final act.

In addition Thomas Hampson's nobly sung Rodrigue and José Van Dam's Philippe, careful not to give out too much too soon, and EMI has a crack cast. Only Waltraud Meier's Eboli lets the side down a bit. But the emotion she thrusts into *O don fatidico* is recompen-sation for some bumpy singing earlier.

★ Worth hearing  
★ Worth considering  
★★ Worth buying

### THEATRES

Albertyn Theatres 0171 369 1730

England's National Opera

10-12 A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Tonight 7.30 DON QUIXOTE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304

4000, box office & Standby info

The Royal Opera

Tonight, Wed, 7.30 LA BOHÈME

Sat, 4.00 DIE WALKÜRE

Mon, 5.00 (First Night) SLEEPING

BEAUTY

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY 0171 304

4000, box office & Standby info

Box office 0171 304

10.00 THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

Fri, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT, 4.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

SUN, 12.00 THE Taming of the Shrew

MON, 5.00 (First Night)

WED, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

FRI, 7.30 THE Taming of the Shrew

SAT,

Roy Porter admires the breadth of vision found in a masterful account of a continent divided and united by history

# From Lublin to Dublin

**E**urophobes and Europhiles alike could seek comfort from this *tour de force* survey of the rise of Europe from Stone Age to New Age. Sceptics might seize upon Professor Davies's masterly demonstration of the infinite diversity and discord of Europe's past. Where Europe starts and stops has never been clear. The Mediterranean uniting yet divided three continents; "Greek" civilisation developed around the coast of Turkey; Constantinople, so long the hub of the Roman or Byzantine Empire, fell to the Ottomans and became Istanbul, and the Russian question (part of Europe or not) is as far from resolution as ever.

As Davies's superb gallery of easy-to-read sketch-maps shows, the map of Europe has incessantly been redrawn. Power has perpetually ebbed and flowed from north to south and east to west. In this day and age, it is hard to imagine that Spain was once the scourge of Europe — only to be succeeded in the early 17th century, however briefly, by Sweden! Europe, Davies insists, has been and remains deeply divided by climate and creeds, Diets and diet.

Of course, from Alexander the Great to Chancellor Kohl, rulers have staked their claims to some grander unity or at least mastery: there was the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire, Napoleon and Hitler and their imperial dreams, while the Pope professed plenitude of spiritual power. But all proved rhetoric, not reality, and attempts to impose union only worsened divisions — witness the never-healed schism between the Vatican and the Greek Orthodox Church. In short, though the idea of unity has oft been floated, the truth has been Europe divided.

Yet all that may miss the point. For the overwhelming moral of the edifying events traced in this book is that, at bottom, all of Europe has been in the same boat — or rather masquerading as "Britain" with snippets of Western Europe thrown in when necessary; or we trace the "rise of the West", which turns out to be a barely veiled version of Anglocentrism. How many of us ever find out about the goings-on in Mitteleuropa or the Mediterranean, about Lithuania or (Davies's great specialty) about Poland? Yet they have shaped our fates.

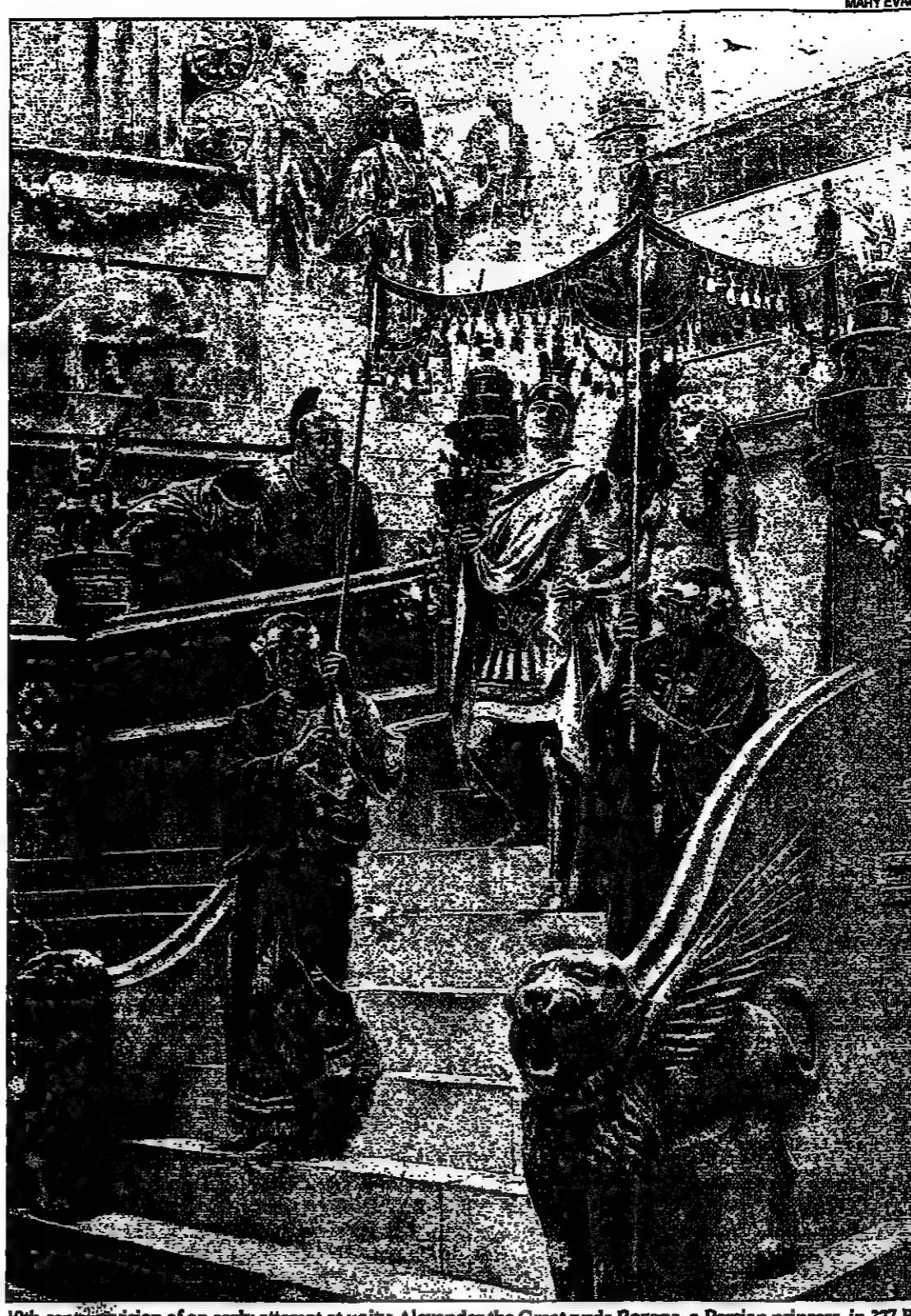
As one would expect from a protégé of the great gadfly, A. J. P. Taylor, Davies has a truck with grandiose theorisings and espies no great transcendental patterns or purposes; but if he is sceptical about visionary notions of European Manifest Destiny, he is even more scathing towards blinkered Little England fantasies. The one lesson Davies's historical anatomy of Europe indubitably teaches is the ludicrousness of insularity: no island is an island.

EUROPE  
A History  
By Norman Davies  
OUP, £25  
ISBN 0 19 820710

masquerading as "Britain" with snippets of Western Europe thrown in when necessary; or we trace the "rise of the West", which turns out to be a barely veiled version of Anglocentrism. How many of us ever find out about the goings-on in Mitteleuropa or the Mediterranean, about Lithuania or (Davies's great specialty) about Poland? Yet they have shaped our fates.

As one would expect from a protégé of the great gadfly, A. J. P. Taylor, Davies has a truck with grandiose theorisings and espies no great transcendental patterns or purposes; but if he is sceptical about visionary notions of European Manifest Destiny, he is even more scathing towards blinkered Little England fantasies. The one lesson Davies's historical anatomy of Europe indubitably teaches is the ludicrousness of insularity: no island is an island.

Professor Norman Davies will be interviewed by Valerie Grove in *The Times* on Monday.



19th-century vision of an early attempt at unity: Alexander the Great weds Roxana, a Persian princess, in 327 BC

To the proposition that Leo Abse is crazy, offer my assent. So was Nietzsche. So was Dali.

To the proposition that old age is robbing the 80-year-old former Welsh Labour MP of his marbles, I return an emphatic No. Mr Abse's marbles have always been arranged unconventionally. He proceeds by the inspired rant. As a lonely crusader for social causes, almost all of which are now accepted as right, Abse ranted in his Commons days; he was ranting later when he wrote *Margaret, Daughter of Beatrix*, a psycho-political tirade against the mother-erasing Thatcher. People scoffed — then quietly acknowledged his insight. He was ranting when he wrote his tirade against the whole German nation. *Woman*

*My Enemy*. The day approaches when the work will be seen as visionary.

And Mr Abse is ranting now in *The Man Behind the Smile*. Its shocking assertion is that the leader of the Labour Party is androgynous — though mercifully the author stops short of suggesting that anything is amiss with Mr Blair's sexual apparatus. Age does not weary the exoticism of Abse's tirades.

Often heavy-going and in places — frankly — opaque, this book assumes the mantle of psychoanalysis. Examining Tony Blair's eccentric family history, Abse uncovers (he believes) a parenting which left the boy who, at choir school used to pray with his headmaster, emotionally incomplete: a young man with an unsecured personality, cleaving now to rock music, now to Christianity and thus grasped at templates for his own identity which his upbringing never supplied.

He diagnoses in Blair's personality an hysterical rejection of challenge: scrambling for authority as a substitute for reason. His worshipping of authoritarian leadership is linked, Abse thinks, to emotional insecurity; and this is what underlies the "consensus by diktat" he imposes. Abse finds Blair utterly different from Margaret Thatcher: she relished a scrap; he reinvents reality, writing conflict out of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete, androgynous, cold, coy, correspondingly cute, and adrift: of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

At this study's core are two linked assertions. Abse believes Blair's personality is — because not properly keyed into the male and female paradigms which parenting should provide — incomplete,

and

adrift:

of the script.

In the tense male relationships among the close-knit "new" Labour gang encircling the leadership, Abse detects an unconscious homosexual rivalry he says can exist even between heterosexuals.

Norman Lewis is swept along by a traveller's odyssey through a prairie wilderness where little is too strange to be true

**J**onathan Raban is fascinated by extremes in nature. His portrait of the Mississippi in *Old Glory* is painted in descriptive passages of a river that rarely have been equalled. Now when he turns his attention to another natural immensity we follow him in the knowledge that beauty, however strange, is about to be revealed among the drab landscapes of a wasteland.

The badlands of Montana lie adjacent to North Dakota and the Canadian border, and appear as a bald patch in any but a large-scale map. Much of the area is a prairie in which "the intruder is humbled by featureless space". Nothing grows there but sage brush and wiry grass known as nigger wool. There are no trees.

Driving across this huge emptiness Jonathan Raban notes the shallow grooves worn by the single-file herds of buffaloes a century ago. "The whole country," he writes, "presented itself as a graveyard." It was so strewn with relics of the dead. "The remains of a Ford Model T lie on the prairie as if it had fallen out of the sky." The dead had left their stuff lying around to dissolve back into nature in its own time and at its own pace."

## In a barren and dry land

**BAD LAND**  
An American Romance  
By Jonathan Raban  
Picador, £15.99  
ISBN 0 330 34621 0

He pulls up to explore an abandoned house. Swallows have nested on the parlour walls, decayed furniture is still in place, and clothes hang in wardrobes. "I reached for a dress but mildewed cotton came away in my hand like a fistful of spiderweb." Perhaps an opportunity to make their getaway had sparked off irresistible panic in this family and they had just rushed out of the place.

These were the people of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* — victims of one of the cruellest deceptions in history. By 1909, the time of the Homestead Act, the Government of the day was determined to fill the great empty spaces of the West. Expanding

railroads were hungry for passengers and the banks for customers who could be persuaded to take up loans. The trap was 320 acres of free land offered to each family of homesteaders and pamphlets illustrating the rich farmland and lush pastures to be given away were sent out to every country in Europe. In response to these allurements, immigrants, many penniless, arrived by the thousand to be whisked away to a desert and left largely to their own resources, whether to go under or at most scrape through.

Officially this was semi-arid territory with a rainfall as low as any area on earth capable of supporting human life. A best-selling book, *Campbell's Soil Culture Manual*, had been hastily published to convince the hesitant



Relics of the dead: General Custer's Montana grave

on a sliver of pure cold, as sharp and palpable as a knifeblade... one had to conserve each sniff for as long as possible before the next painful, cautious in-draft.

Luckily for Raban he had not chanced on a really cold night, when the temperature often dropped to 40 below.

There were other climatic hazards, for although it hardly ever rained the badlands suffered hailstorms with stones up to five inches in diameter, destroyed light planes and drove the homesteaders to take refuge underground. Cyclones snatched up telegraph poles and sent them spinning into the sky.

Other terrors included plagues of grasshoppers, confirming the suspicions of the many students of the Book of Revelation among the

settlers that doomsday was at hand.

As for farming, it was found that ploughing destroyed the precarious fertility of the land. The only successful crop was turnips which grew to phenomenal sizes, one establishing a world record of 18lb.

It was on these that the homesteaders sometimes subsisted, although a few scrawny chickens and an undersized pig might also be raised. The author notes the prevalence of extreme forms of religion.

Curiously the Adventists made things worse for themselves by opposing irrigation.

**S**ixty-five years have gone by since the flight from the badlands, and signs of life are returning to the grey moonscape of Montana. Agencies arrange sentimental journeys for the descendants of those who once suffered here. More come on "novelty-seekers" tours, amused by trips to towns with names like Musselshell, Crackerville and

5  
bear in  
a perform-  
ence On  
England  
in ECEN  
authority.

its' in-  
for  
re  
ng

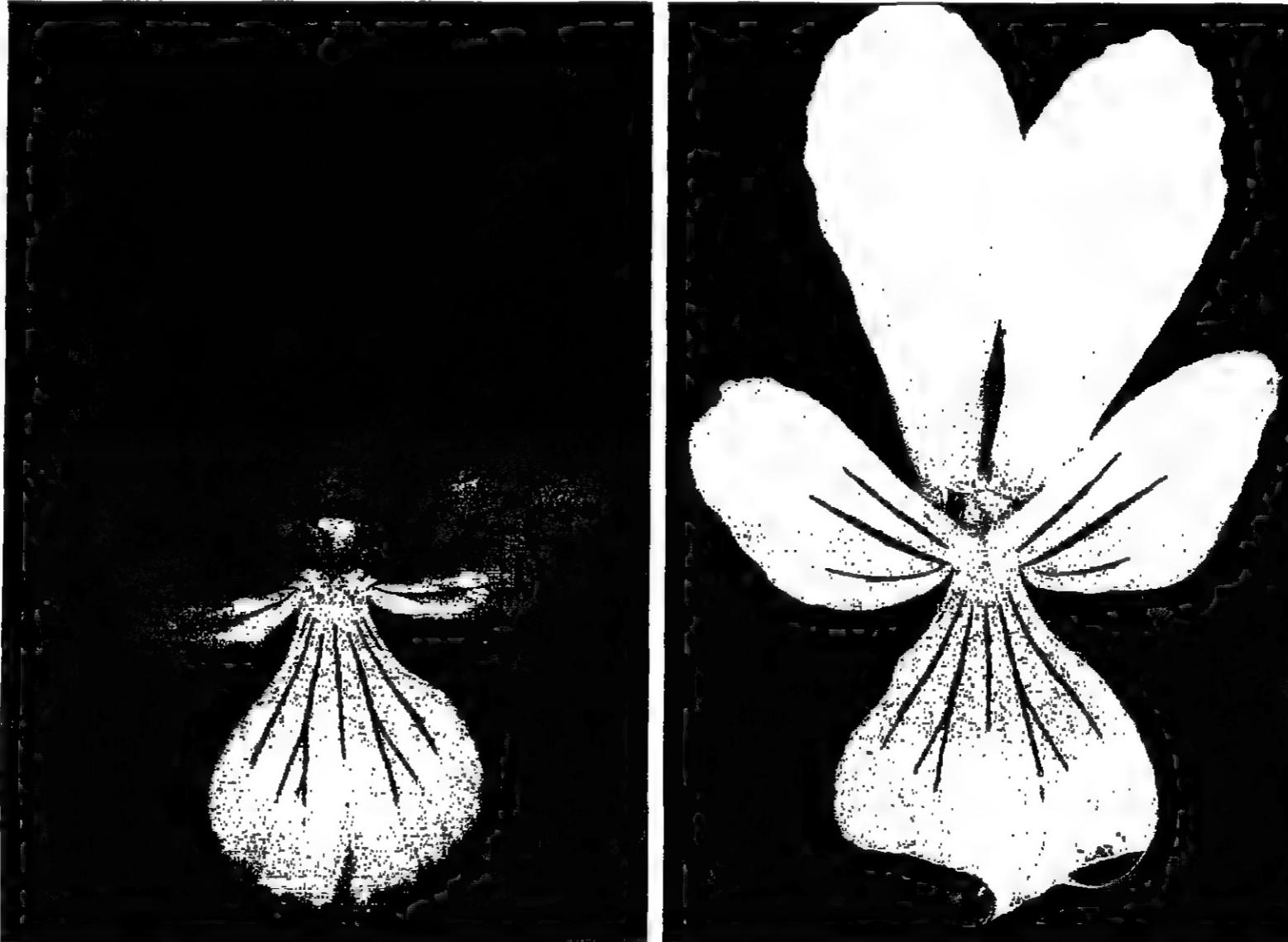
if  
SL for  
is  
by

## Weaving a grand garland of native blooms

Pippa Greenwood

**FLORA BRITANNICA**  
By Richard Mabey  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £30  
ISBN 1 85619 377 2

Mabey has succeeded in drawing together information from ordinary people up and down the country, in rural and inner-city areas. This has then been cleverly used to create a written picture of how we all interact with plants and how they have shaped our everyday lives, our childhoods, local beliefs and traditions, and the stories we tell. Drawing it brings back long-forgotten childhood memories such as using an ash tree as a post-box for scribbled poems and letters, and using its gnarled base as a "living" dolls house. Then there is the rather more alarming story that the green layer on the surface of a pond, caused by the extensive growth of duckweed (*Lemna minor*) provides the living quarters for the terrifying Jenny Green teeth. This amorphous monster lurks beneath the surface and sucks in any naughty children who dare to stray too close. Behind all



Britain's flowers in their glory are detailed in a botanical *Domesday Book*: mountain pansies from Perthshire show extremes of colour variation

frightening stories told to children there is a lesson to be learned and in this case the choice is between an obvious attempt to deter children from risking drowning by playing too close to water and a threat to children who do not clean their teeth. Sometimes I think I had an unusually calm, stress-free childhood!

Reading local variations of stories and beliefs about plants is fascinating and *Flora Britannica* is written in such a way that it is almost impossible to put down. It brings

home, without question, the fact that our lives always have been inextricably linked with our surrounding plant life. It provides much evidence that even in this electronic age, we still continue to weave plants of every type and description into the tapestry of our stress-free childhood!

Regional variations in plant names are covered with equal enthusiasm: in those entries I checked I was unable to find a single missing common name. In other words we are all too often given a plant's Latin

name, perhaps accompanied by a couple of the more frequently used common names. Here common names have been collected together to provide what I suspect is an unsurpassed collection. I must admit to being unaware that the early purple orchid has such a wide range of aliases including keeklegs, kite's legs, goosey gander, bloody butcher and kettle legs.

It seems that there are, in fact, more than 90 names listed for this one plant and although not all are included

here, a useful reference is given.

More than 500 photographs are used too, showing useful plant portraits and breathtaking shots of the plants in their natural habitats. These too are of a high standard.

*Flora Britannica* is quite unlike any other book I have ever had the pleasure to review; its intention was to be a flora "of the people, for the people" and in this it succeeds 100 per cent. Its botanical and factual content is so charmingly written that it should appeal

to anyone, whether a keen botanist, or just someone who enjoys learning about the plants which surround us. It is a perfect mix of the anecdotal and the factual.

After all this there could only be one pitfall, the price. But no, I was fascinated to see that, with the aim of making it accessible to as wide a range of people as possible, it is to be priced at £30.

Pippa Greenwood is a panelist on Gardeners' Question Time.

Five years working on one book is a long time, but I am of the opinion that *Flora Britannica* is worth every second of Richard Mabey's time. It is an extraordinary book which has been justifiably described as the "Domesday Book for the plant life of Britain at the end of the 20th century".

The tide may give the impression of a starchy, academic thesis, perhaps only of interest to keen amateur or professional botanists. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are nearly 1,000 native or naturalised species described, covering all the higher plant families found in England, Scotland and Wales. Clear and yet interesting descriptions are given and that is where the similarity with a standard flora ends.

Each plant is described in such a way that you are tempted to delve further, even when satisfied that you have found what you need. Most entries contain down-to-earth comments on the plant's characteristics — for example, the deteriorating flower spikes of the early purple orchid are described as having a smell reminiscent of torn cat — And indeed they do.

The mere mention of the "special relationship" is apt to produce a yawn; and the term certainly conjures up clichés about ties of language, law and tradition. With these Robin Renwick, a former British Ambassador to Washington, has no intention of boring us. His is a narrative of the political relationship between the United States and Britain, together with a summing-up of where it stands now.

He gives a brilliant account of the nadir in 1814 when the British burnt the White House; and he reminds us of what must surely be the apex when, within that same, if necessarily rebuilt, White House, Winston Churchill stayed for three weeks as the guest of President Roosevelt. It was the most crucial moment of the Second World War, immediately after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. In those weeks Churchill managed to persuade the Americans to give priority to the war against Germany rather than Japan.

It has been a veritable roller-coaster of a relationship, and Renwick makes a thriller of the ups and downs and the way these have affected the lives of the peoples of two continents for two centuries.

The style is spare and vivid. The short chapters serve as stepping-stones, preventing the reader from becoming bogged down in a mire of history. Serious content is lightened by anecdotes. Thus, Joe Kennedy was appointed United States Ambassador to London because President Roosevelt thought him "too dangerous to have around here". When his son, President

Nicholas Henderson

**FIGHTING WITH ALLIES**  
America and Britain in Peace and War  
By Robin Renwick  
Macmillan, £25  
ISBN 0 333 65743 8

Kennedy complained to Harold Macmillan about the way the press treated his wife and asked him how he would react if someone said "Lady Dorothy is a drunk". Macmillan responded: "I would have seen her mother."

Renwick is explicit about the profound shift in the balance between the two sides in modern times. Inevitable in the long run, it has been accelerated by the participation of both countries in the two World Wars, which has led to superpower leadership for the United States and dramatic decline for Britain. This material change has been compounded by Eden's handling of the Suez crisis as the supreme example. Eden "distrusted the USA but felt no attachment to Europe". The ending of the Cold War and German reunification have also reduced the relative importance of London to Washington.

But what is so significant about the relationship between the United States and



A very special relationship: Ronald Reagan, Lucky and Margaret Thatcher in 1985

Britain is the fact, emphasised by Renwick, that, notwithstanding this growing disparity and despite recurring political disagreements (reflected in the double entendre of the title), they continue to mean a great deal to each other, and in a manner that is different from the way either country feels about another.

Renwick attributes this to the hard-headed give and take of the system, at any rate in the present age. He gives examples: the 1940 destroyers for bases deal and the transfer, in

the same year, to the United States of British scientific information ("the most valuable cargo ever brought to the shores of the USA", according to the recipients), in return for American war supplies; and Margaret Thatcher's backing of the United States over the deployment of missiles in Europe and over the bombing of Libya, in recognition of the United States' support in the Falklands War. In Renwick's view that war put the relationship to its most severe test since Suez.

During the last half-century the greatest disagreements have occurred, as Renwick shows, over policy towards the Soviet Union. President Roosevelt, Harry Hopkins (his main foreign policy adviser) and even General Eisenhower harboured illusions about Russia, particularly Stalin, and believed that they could co-operate with Moscow satisfactorily during and immediately after the war, provided the British didn't get in the way. In retrospect it must not be forgotten how appallingly

Renwick formulates the paradox that Britain cannot afford to be marginalised in Europe if it is to remain influential in Washington; yet it is precisely Britain's differ-

ence from other European countries and its willingness to act without waiting for a European consensus that renders the relationship valuable to the United States. This may be going too far. The more "different" the British are in this respect and the more they appear to be an American Trojan horse in the EU, the less will their influence be in Europe and the less therefore their impact in Washington.

**N**or does the essential role that Renwick assigns to Britain of "helping to bind together Europe and the United States" correspond to the requirements of either. We are important to both but not as a transatlantic go-between or bridge. As regards our value to the United States, "the plain fact is", as the current United States Ambassador to London, Admiral Crowe, has said, "that our policies, concerns, interests and common values coincide with Great Britain's to a degree that is in many ways unique".

In a material sense the uniqueness today remains only in certain areas, particularly nuclear defence and intelligence, but Renwick concludes that Britain renders a political service in ensuring that the United States is not left alone when crises occur that affect the West generally, as in Korea or the Gulf, and when the British will continue to be regarded as "the closest and most dependable of America's allies".

Sir Nicholas Henderson was Ambassador to Washington, 1979-82.

FOCUSING much of her story on a sympathetic teenage protagonist, Mercy, and using the arrival of two strangers in search of their children — lost to the cult — as a narrative catalyst, Turner Hospital takes us into a man-made apocalypse every bit as bleak as Waco. Filtered through a largely mute and peripheral narrator, she carefully weaves fundamentalism with murder, opals and dreams, fused in a fragmented, dislocated timeframe that mirrors the deceptive, shifting nature of the Outback landscape ("the shimmering Outback air can present on the track ahead a man who passed behind you a day ago").

Turner Hospital conveys the idea that the hot desolation of the land almost makes rationalism impossible. Dreamlike sequences, Alice in Wonderland imagery, and biblical allusions, counterpointed with more precise passages devoted to opals, oysters and pearl, it is a lyrical and sophisticated way of storytelling. Much of the power and originality of the novel stems from the mesmerising disconcerting quality of the writing and Janette Turner Hospital's ability to create a unique pictorial sense of place. That the results are so readable, as well as timely, is testament to her talent.





FOOTBALL: BAND STRIKES UP WITH FOREST FORWARD ANSWERING MUSIC'S DRAW

# McGregor sounds out latest score

By RICHARD HOBSON

FOOTBALLERS might have lived like pop stars for years, but attempts to imitate them professionally are best strangled at the sound check. The obligatory record is the downside of modern FA Cup Final routine and Kevin Keegan set a less than dulcet tone for individual efforts almost 20 years ago. Others, unfortunately, have followed in a similar key.

This sorry fact means that Paul McGregor has to break down a prejudice as thick as the Thames Barrier to be taken seriously in the music world. Yet he is determined to give it his very best shot.

Until now McGregor has been known as a promising striker at Nottingham Forest. His quarter-hour of fame came against Lyons at the City Ground last year, when his goal proved enough to take Forest into the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup. Those with particularly good memories may also recall that he scored in his next appearance, too, against Manchester United.

The long-term injury that has befallen Steve Stone is likely to mean further opportunities for the 21-year-old in the weeks ahead. Away from the game, the spotlight is about to be turned on him in a more literal sense.

McGregor is the vocalist and chief songwriter in a four-piece Britpop band called Merc who make their live debut at Rock City in Nottingham tonight. The club has played host to Oasis, Blur and Pulp among others over the past three years and this time McGregor's team-mate, Scott Gemmill, will offer encouragement as the DJ. Six days later, coinciding with England's World Cup qualifying match against Poland at Wembley, Merc will play at The Wag in Soho.

Among those promising to attend that concert is Alan McGee, president of the Creation record label, which is home to Oasis, generally recognised as the biggest British group since The Beatles. McGregor, who at least looks the part with his bleached, scraggly hair, told McGee about his group while back-stage at the recent Oasis concert at Knebworth.

"I am not daft. People will come along because there is a footballer in the band, but I think they will leave with the impression that we are really, really good. For our first two concerts the interest among record companies is im-



McGregor belts out the lyrics of his own song as he sets out to launch a parallel career to football with the Britpop band, Merc

ense." McGregor said. A pair of acoustic sessions staged for local radio have been well received.

This is no whim. McGregor has been in one band or another since the age of 13, originally performing cover versions of The Doors and the Sex Pistols. He has since written ten songs of his own that he believes are good enough to be recorded.

Slipping into a parlance that would impress the Gallagher

brother at the family home in Chilwell. He has now moved to a fashionable private estate on the outskirts of Nottingham. His home overlooks the county tennis headquarters, once the stage of the prestigious John Player event, and the squash club that the international players, Peter Marshall and Simon Parke, have made their base.

Signed photographs of the singer-songwriter, Paul Weller, and McGregor's favourite group, The Verve, take pride of place in the living room although his contribution to an exhibition of paintings at a gallery in Calverton (he was recently awarded a grade A at A level in art) is out of view.

With the confidence of youth, he answers every question bar one with articulate spontaneity. Would he rather score a winning goal for England or perform on stage with Oasis?

"That's almost impossible," he said. "I suppose if the match kicked off at eight I could score the goal, get in a helicopter and make it for the encore. That would be just about perfect."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old



The talented Forest forward shows his true colours

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment and the worry is that such activities will detract from the performances of a footballer who is yet to fulfil his potential, having scored a club record 49 youth team goals in the 1991-92 season.

Before the Rock City concert was fixed up I went to see the manager [Frank Clark] to

tell him about the publicity I thought I would get," McGregor said. "He was fine about it.

"He plays the guitar himself and sings Beatles songs at our Christmas do, so he was very interested. If we sign with a record company everything would have to fit around football."

Until six months ago McGregor still shared a bedroom with his 13-year-old

brothers, he said: "My lyrics are about everything and nothing. Some of them are quite meaningful. Others descend into drivel. I honestly cannot think of a good song people associate with football. *World in Motion*, by New Order, was all right, but I would like to think I can change that image."

Plans to record a demo tape a fortnight ago were shelved when McGregor went down

with flu. Normally the band rehearse up to four times a week with sessions known to last for six hours on a Sunday. It is a heavy commitment

## FOOTBALL

# Clubs win struggle to postpone matches

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PERSISTENT lobbying of the Football League finally paid off yesterday when Nationwide League clubs were given the go-ahead to postpone matches if they have three or more players, at senior and under-21 level, on international duty. Charlton Athletic and Ipswich Town responded immediately by calling off their first division matches against Barnsley and Swindon Town respectively this weekend.

Previously, the rule covered only players involved in senior internationals. It meant that clubs with promising under-21 players, who were absent because of selection by their countries, had to field weakened teams for league matches. Many managers argued that it was ridiculous to differentiate between senior and under-21 players.

Don Goodman, the striker signed from Sunderland for £1 million by Wolverhampton Wanderers, is on the verge of making a comeback to competitive football less than six months after fracturing his skull in a clash of heads while playing against Huddersfield Town at Molineux on April 27. He has been given clearance to wear a protective headguard in a reserves match against Port Vale tomorrow.

"We were being penalised for being successful," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "Why shouldn't the same consideration be given to the under-21s as it is to senior players? Our under-21 players are our first-team players and even if we're missing only one of them, it hurts our side."

Until the new ruling yesterday, Charlton would have had to have played against Barnsley on Saturday without Shaun Newton and Richard Rufus, who have been called up by England Under-21 for their match against Poland, and John Robinson, who will play for Wales in their World Cup qualifying tie against Holland in Cardiff.

After pressure from Curbishley and managers in similar positions, the Football League canvassed the first division clubs on their views.

Though the vote was only narrowly in favour of extending the rule to include under-21s, Curbishley feels that the move, ultimately, should help every club.

"I gather there was a bit of opposition, but it could be their turn next," he said. "It's not as if we're talking about once a year, it's four or five times. There's also the question of denying our supporters the chance to see our best players. Having to postpone our game only three days before it was due to be played is not the best state of affairs, either, but at least the problem has been addressed."

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, also welcomed the move. For the game against Swindon, he would have lost James Scowcroft and Tony Vaughan, who are in the England Under-21 squad, and Claus Thomsen, who has been selected for Denmark's World Cup match against Greece next week. "It makes sense," he said. "We haven't got the biggest of squads and to be missing three players was just too many."

Seven Nationwide fixtures have been postponed this week, due to international commitments, and the televised meeting between Crystal Palace and Sheffield United, at Selhurst Park on Sunday, could also be lost. Palace were initially prepared to play, even without Chris Day, Bruce Dyer and Ray Houghton. "We'll just get on with it," Dave Bassett, the Palace manager, said — but they have now had second thoughts, with Tony Scully called up for the Ireland Under-21 squad, Danny Boxall on standby for England Under-21s and Dougie Freedman also being considered for duty by Craig Brown, the Scotland coach. The League is expected to consider Palace's plight today.

Earlier this week, Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, cheekily circumnavigated the old rule by promoting Lee Jarman, Scott Young and Patrick Mountain, the young Cardiff City trio, from the under-21 to the senior squad. It enabled Cardiff to call off their third division matches against Rochdale, on Tuesday, and Chester, on Saturday. Now, there should be no need for such manoeuvres.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NORWICH City spent many a month regretting the departure of Mike Walker from the manager's office at Carrow Road. It was a symptom of other problems at the club and the signal for a steady decline from the heady days of meeting and beating Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup. Now, however, Walker is back and an encouraging autumn in East Anglia is threatening to develop into a full-blown revival.

On Tuesday, Norwich went to the top of the Nationwide League first division courtesy of a 4-1 thumping of Grimsby Town, a result all the more commendable because it was at Blundell Park. Grimsby, not at home. Darren Eadie scored their opener after just two minutes and though Ashley Flicking equalised four minutes later, Eadie promptly made it 2-1. Andy Johnson made it 3-1 on the half-hour and Keith O'Neill made it four nine minutes from the end. Grimsby may argue that the 42-minute dismissal of

Gary Childs for his second booking hardly helped them, but the points were wrapped up long before then.

Barnsley's 1-1 draw at Ipswich Town denied them the chance to lead the division, while Crystal Palace's impressive charge up the table was slowed, if not quite halted, by their 2-2 draw at Portsmouth.

Brentford continue to set the pace in the second division and their 2-1 win at Bristol City extended their lead to five points. Nicky Forster scoring a late winner at Ashton Gate. Carlisle United are the new leaders of the third division after crushing Colchester United at Brunton Park. David Currie, David Reeves and Owen Arden-Bacon ensuring a 3-0 win. Fulham, who had been top, lost 2-1 at home to Torquay United, Garry Nelson scoring twice.

The youngest manager in the league, Steve Parkin, 30, saw a Scott Eustace goal earn his Mansfield Town side a 1-1 draw at Hull City with six minutes remaining.

The youngest manager in the league, Steve Parkin, 30, saw a Scott Eustace goal earn his Mansfield Town side a 1-1 draw at Hull City with six minutes remaining.

## Walker guides Norwich to top

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

EVERTON have protested to Fifa, the world governing body of football, about an alleged illegal approach by Fiorentina to Andrei Kanchelskis, their Russia international winger.

Alan Myers, a spokesman for the Goodison Park club, said yesterday that it had lodged an official complaint with Fifa over an attempt by an agent said to be acting for the Italian Cup-holders to contact Kanchelskis.

Under Fifa rules, clubs and agents can only approach players about transfer deals during the final six months of their contracts.

"Andrei's got three years left on his official contract and, as far as we're concerned, he'll be seeing them out," Myers said.

Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton Wanderers manager, is hoping to complete the signing of a midfield player before the match with Reading at Molineux on Saturday.

McGhee recently confirmed an interest in Craig Hignett, the Middlesbrough player valued at £750,000.

MANCHESTER City have once again gone up a blind alley in the search to end the club's problems. Last night Francis Lee, the City chairman, dismissed the latest attempted takeover, led by Mark Guterman, the Chester City chairman, as another false trail.

Although Guterman had cancelled Tuesday evening's press conference, he insisted that the bid was still alive. Lee took leave to doubt it. "I would say a takeover is nearly out of the question," Lee said, "although investment in the club is still a possibility."

With the search for a new manager still proving unsuccessful, Lee claimed that the supposed bids for the club were proving more of a hindrance than a help.

"I'm sick of all these guys wasting my time," he said. "In the past 12 to 18 months, so many people have supposedly been interested in the club, but not one of them has got us off the ground."

These nonsensical proposals

## Lee angry at being led up false trails

BY PETER BALL

als take up so much time, and it's not funny any more. I haven't yet negotiated with anyone who is interested in buying. I am not surprised the fans are confused. All I can tell them is that most of it is nonsense."

The supporters' confusion is exacerbated by City's failure to find a manager. Directors at the board meeting on Tuesday were forced to turn to the B list, but the decision of Steve McMahon to sign a new five-year contract at Swindon presumably means that one of the leading names on that list is no longer available.

"I would hope to have a new manager in place before our game with Queens Park Rangers a week on Saturday," Lee said. "Negotiations are progressing."

Good news for City fans yesterday was that Georgi Kinkladze told Lee that he was happy to remain at Maine Road. The club is still waiting to hear if Everton intend to increase their bid for Uwe Rosler, their German striker.

## ATHLETICS

## Gunnell decides on final season

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SALLY GUNNELL, whose Olympic despair left her contemplating retirement is to continue for one more year.

Gunnell, Great Britain's former Olympic champion, world champion, and world record-holder in the 400 metres hurdles, is back in light training two months after her Games ended in a wheelchair.

Gunnell began alternate day running before spending five days in Angola visiting land-mine victims on behalf of the Red Cross.

She returned yesterday from Angola and went direct to Birmingham for the first board meeting of the British Athletes' Association (BAA), an organisation which the British Athletic Federation (BAF) welcomed last weekend into a power-sharing arrangement.

As well as helping to see British athletics resolve its political difficulties, Gunnell is looking ahead to a full indoor season before trying to regain her world title in Athens next summer. Then she will retire to start a family.

After completing a grand slam of Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth titles, Gunnell suffered a foot injury for which she needed surgery.

Having not raced over hurdles for 20 months, she entered the Olympic season determined to re-establish herself, but she pulled up in her Olympic semi-final with a torn Achilles tendon.

Gunnell had said she would be unlikely to continue if further surgery were necessary, but has been told that no operation is necessary. "She has been able to run without pain," Jonathan Marks, her manager, said yesterday. "She remains incredibly positive."

Gunnell was one of 14 international athletes at the BAA meeting, held in the BAF offices. The acrimony of last year, when some athletes boycotted BAF meetings, seemed a thing of the past.

## CRICKET

## Sri Lanka hunt for new coach

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SRI LANKA, holders of the cricket World Cup, who have lost their coach, Dav Whatmore, to Lancashire, are to advertise "locally and internationally" for a successor, Upali Dharmadasa, the board president, said yesterday.

Although the board had not expected Whatmore to leave at this stage, Dharmadasa emphasised that there had been no ill feeling between Whatmore and Sri Lanka officials.

The Australia captain, Mark Taylor, looking forward to his side's first Test for eight months, against India in New Delhi next week, said his priority was to get the players out of one-day mind-set and into playing five-day cricket.

Despite the absence of Shane Warne, Taylor said he was confident Australia were equipped to cope with any sort of pitch India might provide. "We have four players who can bowl spin and if there is a turning pitch I am sure we can apply pressure."

Brian Lara is the first recipient of the £10,000 Cest international cricketer of the year award, sponsored by an India tyre company. The runner-up was Mark Waugh, of Australia. At the presentation, Lara said his immediate goal was to help the West Indies to do well on their tour of Australia which starts next month.

## FIXTURES

## FOOTBALL

AFC BURNLEY v LEEDS UNITED: Division One (2.00pm). PORTSMOUTH v COVENTRY CITY: First division (Portsmouth Park Vale v Wolverhampton (7.00pm)). FA YOUTH CUP: First round qualifying: Tonbridge & Hastings v Horsham v Ashford (Middlesex).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Royal Holloway v St Albans (at Walthamstow); International: Peterborough v Doncaster (at Highbury Stadium, 7.00pm).

## RUGBY LEAGUE

TOUR MATCH: Hull v East Riding v Australian Aboriginals (at Boulevard Hull, 7.30pm).

## OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIAN: Horse of the Year Show (at Wembley). ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr v Newcastle (6.30pm). Women's seniors Open (at Hyde Park, Kentish Town). SPEEDWAY: Northern League: London v Oxford (7.30pm). Conference League: Shetland v Barwick (7.45pm). TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham).



Le Tissier rides Merson's tackle during yesterday's England training session at Bisham Abbey. Photograph: Ian Stewart. Report, page 48

## Holland can bounce back from Euro 96

Ruud Gullit believes the once-divided Dutch are ready for a return to better days. Russell Kempson reports

up the difficulties, there is a different attitude now and there are no problems.

"There appeared to be two factions among the players during Euro 96, but those were more problems within the clubs that were brought into the national team. They have been resolved. Nobody thinks negatively any more; it is a fresh start and everyone will go for it."

Gullit, 34, was no stranger to controversy during his international career, which ended two years ago after 65 caps and 16 goals. He frequently fell out with Leo Beenhakker and Dick Advocaat.

Gullit sensed all is now well, illustrating

Hiddink's predecessors, and walked out on the Dutch squad before the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

"Some players felt they had more power than others," Gullit said, recalling past Dutch conflicts. "Some wanted to play one way, some wanted to play another. There was no one to tell them to shut up and do it for the team."

Hiddink replaced Advocaat, but, during Euro 96, he sent home Edgar Davids, the former Ajax midfield player, now with AC Milan, for making critical comments about his team selection. There were also rumours of racial tension amid the multicultural squad.

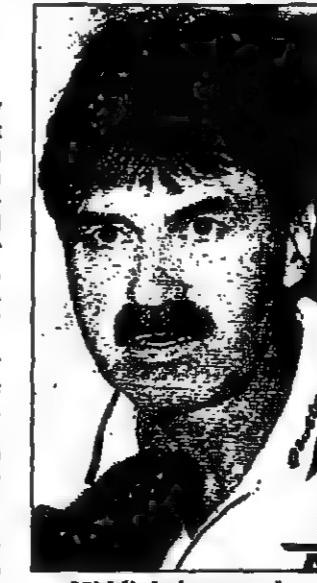
Gullit sensed all is now well, illustrating

the 1994 draw against Brazil, and that the 4-1 defeat by England during the European championship finals was "just an accident". He said: "There is no long-term damage. If we played England again, I think we would beat them." He predicts a victory against Wales, too, though he conceded that it is often awkward when playing against the so-called smaller teams.

It was an opinion that did not meet particular favour with Eddie Niedzwiecki, Gullit's reserve-team coach at Stamford Bridge. Niedzwiecki, a former Wales goalkeeper, who won two caps in the 1990s, said: "There is an arrogance about the Dutch team that perhaps we can knock out of them. We might be a small nation, but we have a big heart. We'll get stuck into them and see how they like it."

Despite the absence of Shane Warne, Taylor said he was confident Australia were equipped to cope with any sort of pitch India might provide. "We have four players who can bowl spin and if there is a turning pitch I am sure we can apply pressure."

Brian Lara is the first recipient of the £10,000 Cest international cricketer of the year award, sponsored by an India tyre company. The runner-up was Mark Waugh, of Australia. At the presentation, Lara said his immediate goal was to help the West Indies to do well on their tour of Australia which starts next month.



Hiddink in control

RUGBY UNION: FINANCIAL INCENTIVES REGARDED AS WAY OF KEEPING EMERGING TALENT FROM GOING TO ENGLAND

## Ireland moves to halt exodus

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

brighter picture than the gloomy prognosis offered after virtually the entire senior squad accepted contracts before this season to play in England. The Irish Schools, possibly the most consistently successful area of representative rugby over the years, went unbeaten on a nine-match tour to Australia during the summer, and every member of that squad has been contacted by the union about his future.

It is possible that bursaries could be made available to those contemplating higher education, but, in general, the IRFU would like to point a

better picture than the gloomy prognosis offered after virtually the entire senior squad accepted contracts before this season to play in England. The Irish Schools, possibly the most consistently successful area of representative rugby over the years, went unbeaten on a nine-match tour to Australia during the summer, and every member of that squad has been contacted by the union about his future.

coaching. In addition, it is believed that each province will need a professional management team, so as to ensure that best use is made of all contracted players.

## Europe ties sway selection

BY DAVID HANDS

ENGLAND'S top four clubs,

preparing for their entry into Europe within the next fortnight, are likely to reveal their playing hand with their selections for the Courage Clubs Championship matches on Saturday — the last for the first division clubs until October 17, when it is due to meet club and provincial branch representatives again.

Henry Paul, playing at full back, was the result of lack of familiarity with rugby laws.

When we get into Europe, then you will see what our best XV is," Richard Best, director of rugby at Harlequins, said last month and Brian Ashton, coach to Bath, concurred. "We will be aiming for more consistency in terms of who plays, week in and week out, rather than playing on a squad basis," he said, though the demands of too many competitions have tested Bath's squad to the limit.

Some of their younger players, and two of their rugby league acquisitions, learnt the hard way in the 10-10 draw with Llanelli at Stradey Park

underfunded Welsh clubs cannot afford. "If you enter a competition, you have a moral obligation to play a strong side," Ashton said.

"It's not only disappointing to hear that clubs can't raise sides in this day and age, it's unprofessional. There are repercussions outside the competition itself; it means that some clubs will not have the hefty programme they might have envisaged and can rest players while others might be playing certain individuals three times in eight days."

Henley, unbeaten in fourth division south this season, have raised the prize-money for their Glentock sevens tournament in May to £25,000. The sponsoring company has agreed a further five-year term and is aiming for it to become one of the biggest tournaments on the world circuit last season all but one of the English first division clubs entered teams.

EQUESTRIANISM: RIDER'S REVIVAL STEALS SHOW ON OPENING DAY

# Cassan and Sparticus fight off the challenge

By JENNY MACARTHUR

TINA CASSAN gained the most rewarding win since her second Queen Elizabeth II Cup victory in 1993 when she won the SGC Scaffolding grade C championship, the main event of yesterday afternoon at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley, on Sparticus.

In an auspicious start to the five-day show at Wembley, Cassan, from Sparsholt, near Wantage, also took third place on Finchpalm Fujiyama. The two horses were separated by Mark Armstrong, a member of the silver medal-winning Great Britain team at the 1993 European championships, on the six-year-old, Ivan.

Cassan, 31, was propelled to the forefront of the sport on Genesis, owned by the late Fred Brown, on which she won the 1992 Queen Elizabeth II Cup. When Brown died three years ago, the horse was sold to the United States leaving Cassan without an international ride.

In Sparticus, an eight-year-old by Dutch Courage owned by Amanda O'Gorman, and Finchpalm Fujiyama, a mare of the same age, she is confident that she now has two international prospects. "There's nothing to choose between them," Cassan said.

Sparticus went first in the three-horse jump-off and recorded a fluent clear round in 29.12sec. Armstrong, who is hoping Ivan will replace his former top horse, Corelli, who died of colic shortly after the 1993 European championships, took a short cut after

Grace Barton, 16, defending

fence two but the young horse wasted time in the air with his enormous jump and finished in a time of 31.04sec. After a pause while Cassan warmed up her second ride, she completed a second clear round but finished just outside Armstrong's time to take third place.

Earlier Sarah Marshall, 14, from Ongar in Essex, who is competing at Wembley for the first time, left her more experienced rivals in the shade when she and Miami Blaze won the Squibb and Davies junior foxhunter championship by a margin of 1.39sec.

In a thrilling seven-horse jump-off against the clock, Marshall, who appeared to have brought most of her family and friends to cheer her on, produced an elegant clear round in 26.73sec. "I thought at first I might go for a slow clear round, but Steven said I was to go as fast as I could," she said, referring to her trainer, Steven Smith, the son of Harvey and an Olympic team silver medal-winner at the Los Angeles Olympics.

Unlike many of the riders, Marshall, who had taken three days off from St John's School in Epping in order to prepare for the competition, has only one pony. Miami Blaze, an eight-year-old, was bought from a local dealer after being spotted at the Towerlands Equestrian Centre. "She's very quick — sometimes almost too quick," Marshall said.

Grace Barton, 16, defending



Barton, the winner last year, has a fence down in the junior foxhunter event

champion and the rider Marshall most feared, dropped out of contention when the spirited Grey Spartan incurred 11 faults in the jump-off. Richard Robinson and Welsh Treasure lost their chance with an expensive refusal at the last fence. Angelina Moore, the last to go on the aptly-named

P J Grease Lightning, gave Marshall some anxious moments as they flew round the six-fence course but finished just outside the winning time to take second place.

Emma Edwards, at 20 a seasoned Wembley campaigner, continued her successful season when she and Wood-

lands Clover won the Toggi Wager speed class from a field of 61. Edwards, who went third and then had a nail-biting wait as she watched successive riders attempt to match her time, has been trained by the showjumper, Andy Austin, since he was eight.

Duff would prefer to put McCracken in first against Alexander Zaitsev, from Russia, for the European title. Zaitsev should have met Neville Brown on Tuesday but the Derby man had to cry off with a back injury. If the injury again gets in the way of a bout with the Russian, the European Boxing Union would almost certainly order Zaitsev to meet McCracken.

Duff said: "With the European belt, McCracken has an excellent chance of moving up to No 1 in the rankings and as mandatory challenger we'll be able to get more money."

Both McCracken and Duff

had hoped to take an easier route to a world title by challenging Lonnie Bradley, the World Boxing Organisation champion, and had started talks, but Frank Warren, the rival promoter, got in first and secured a bout for his own man, Cornelius Carr.

McCracken, though, has an injury. He damaged his elbow and his trainer, Paddy Lynch, said the boxer had to stop training the week before the defence, on Tuesday, of his Commonwealth title against Fitzgerald Brumey, of Canada. "He could not lift his arm on Saturday," Lynch said. "And we thought we would have to call off the fight with Brumey."

In the circumstances, it was not a bad effort by McCracken on Tuesday to outpoint by ten rounds to one the slippery Canadian, who had pushed him close 11 months ago.

Uzielli has title in sight

GOLF: Angela Uzielli could hardly be better placed to win the British women's senior open championship for a fifth time at Pyle and Kenfig today. Uzielli goes into the third and final round eight strokes clear of her nearest challenger, Valerie Hassett, of Ireland. Uzielli put together a round of 75 yesterday for a three-over-par total of 147 and although Hassett, four strokes adrift overnight, reduced the deficit to two at the par-five 5th hole, where she took a four to Uzielli's six, she faltered over the back nine, with double bogeys at the 12th and 13th holes, for a round of 79.

**Black strikes double**

ATHLETICS: Roger Black and Denise Lewis have been voted Britain's athletes of the year by the British Athletics Writers' Association. Black, who won silver medals in the 400 metres and the 4 x 400 metres relay at the Olympic Games, previously won the award in 1986. Lewis, who won an Olympic bronze medal in the heptathlon, is the first woman from the multi-event to win since Mary Peters became Olympic champion in 1972.

Black was also voted Europe's eighth-best male athlete yesterday, with another Briton, Jonathan Edwards, the triple jump silver medallist at Atlanta, voted fifth-best. Jan Zelezny, the javelin thrower from the Czech Republic, won the Waterford Crystal European athlete of the year award; Svetlana Masterkova, the Russian middle-distance runner, won the women's prize.

**Uzielli has title in sight**

GOLF: Angela Uzielli could hardly be better placed to win the British women's senior open championship for a fifth time at Pyle and Kenfig today. Uzielli goes into the third and final round eight strokes clear of her nearest challenger, Valerie Hassett, of Ireland. Uzielli put together a round of 75 yesterday for a three-over-par total of 147 and although Hassett, four strokes adrift overnight, reduced the deficit to two at the par-five 5th hole, where she took a four to Uzielli's six, she faltered over the back nine, with double bogeys at the 12th and 13th holes, for a round of 79.

**Lola ready to power up**

MOTOR RACING: Lola, the racing car production company that helped Nigel Mansell to the 1993 IndyCar title, is to take on Formula One's top engine manufacturers. The Cambridge-based firm is embarking on a £10 million project to rival Peugeot, Ferrari and Mercedes. Lola is considering whether to return to Formula One next season. "This engine project will remove any dependence on third-parties," Eric Broadley, their founder said. Lola cars have won the Indianapolis 500 three times and the IndyCar championship on five occasions.

**Wales stage fightback**

HOCKEY: Wales restored much of their pride in their third match in the men's World Cup preliminary tournament at Cagliari, Sardinia, coming from behind to force a 1-1 draw with New Zealand. Wales proved more than a match for New Zealand despite being without David Hacker, the suspended captain, and were unfortunate to trail to a goal by Umesh Parag at half-time. Paul Edwards equalised for Wales with the first short corner of the game seven minutes after the restart.

**Charterhouse target**

GOLF: Charterhouse, eight times winners of the Grafton Morris Trophy, will have their sights set on a tenth appearance in the final of the annual Public Schools Old Boys' Golf Association tournament when they face RGS Worcester in the first round at Hunstanton, Norfolk, tomorrow. Repton, the holders, have a bye to the second round where they face Uppingham. Repton beat Charterhouse in the quarter-finals last year and went on to defeat KCS Wimbledon in the final.

GOLF: LEADING PLAYERS TURN THEIR THOUGHTS TOWARDS QUALIFICATION FOR EUROPE TEAM

# Johansson makes his point on Ryder Cup selection

By JOHN HOPKINS,  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Per-Ulrik Johansson won the Smurfit European Open near Dublin on Sunday, he deflected attention from the race between Colin Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam for the 1996 European order of merit. That race is nearly run, with Montgomerie £143,348 ahead of the Welshman and very likely to win for a fourth successive year. It would be a remarkable upset if he failed.

So now thoughts can be switched to issues such as the composition of the Europe team for the Ryder Cup next year, and in this regard Johansson did himself no harm at all in Ireland. His victory there moved

him up to fifth in the points table, bringing another dimension to the German Masters, which starts near Berlin today.

How Johansson and the other leading European players are doing in this table is going to be one of the themes at the Motzener See Golf and Country Club over the next four days, as well as at every other event held until the end of August next year. At that point the leading ten players in the table will be selected automatically for the team to compete against the United States a month later and two more will be chosen by Severiano Ballesteros, the team captain.

It was good for Ballesteros that Johansson won because the Swede is

a strong-willed, ambitious golfer who competed in the Ryder Cup last year, his eighth place in the US PGA two months ago has earned him a place in the same event next year, as well as the Masters, so he has made sure of rigorous competition against not just the best in Europe but many of the best in the world. Victory in Dublin helped him to rise 20 places in the world rankings to No 52.

Competitors at golf events in Germany face an added difficulty: Bernard Langer almost always does very well in such events. Were Langer to win this week it would be his tenth victory in his native country. He has also been runner-up twice in this event, which he started in honour of his own victory in the

1985 Masters. Langer, 39 last August, hardly needs challenges but when they are presented he usually answers them.

The challenge at this event in 1991, for example, was to rehabilitate himself after the trauma of missing the putt that would have enabled Europe to tie with the United States in the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island. Langer chipped in at the 11th in his final round and then birdied four of his last six holes in an attempt to catch Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden. He eventually finished second.

It is doubtful if there will be such low scoring again this year. Fairways have been narrowed in the areas where drives will land and a strip of semi-rough has been added between the fairway and the rough. Johansson will be hoping to continue his good form. He finished fourth here last year, 19 under par.

OFFER &amp; COMPETITION THE TIMES

# BUY ONE BOOK TO GET ONE FREE

*The Times* is offering students one of 10 books FREE when you buy a book from either the Penguin Classic series or the Penguin 20th Century Classics list from a Blackwell's bookshop before November 30, 1996. The list of free books is on the voucher which was published in *Freshers', Guide to Student Life*, delivered free with Monday's *Times*. All the details of this offer are on page 10 of the Guide. You need to collect a further three tokens to add to the one which appears on the voucher.

**Win your rent for a year**

Blackwell's Bookshops, in association with Penguin Books and *The Times*, offers you the chance to win a cheque for £2,000 towards your rent — and there are three cheques to be won. Simply collect three of the six tokens in *The Times* this week. Attach them to the prize draw entry form (published on Monday) and send it with your name, address, course and institution to Win Your Rent Prize Draw, PO Box 8381, London SE1 7ZF. You must be a full-time student. Closing date: November 1, 1996.

THE TIMES

WIN YOUR

RENT

FOR A YEAR



2 FOR 1

BOOKS



CHANGING TIMES

## BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Pre-post Below 10 starters 1 (Boston); 1 (Chicago); 2 (Detroit); 3 (Minnesota); 4 (New York); 5 (Seattle); 6 (Texas); 7 (Tampa Bay); 8 (Texas); 9 (New York); 10 (Seattle).

## BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group H: London Towers 61 (Cunningham 16, Austin 15, Hooks 11); PIT Ankara (Tur) 72 (Goren 21, Yıldırım 16, Çelik 14, Küçük 13); Celtic (Pit) 64 (Clegg 16, O'Farrell 14).

## BOXING

ASTON VILLA LEISURE CENTRE, Birmingham: Commonwealth middleweight champion, Peter McCracken (Birmingham), 14, beat Spencer McCracken (Birmingham) 21, Dorey Clarke (Cardiff) by a technical knockout in the 10th round.

## CRICKET

THE TIMES' LADIES: First Division: 1. Notts v Lancashire 10-2-2; 2. Lancashire v Notts 10-2-2; 3. Lancashire v Middlesex 10-2-2; 4. Lancashire v Warwickshire 10-2-2; 5. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 6. Lancashire v Gloucestershire 10-2-2; 7. Lancashire v Leicestershire 10-2-2; 8. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 9. Lancashire v Yorkshire 10-2-2; 10. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 11. Lancashire v Warwickshire 10-2-2; 12. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 13. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 14. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 15. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 16. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 17. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 18. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 19. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 20. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 21. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 22. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 23. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 24. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 25. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 26. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 27. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 28. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 29. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 30. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 31. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 32. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 33. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 34. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 35. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 36. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 37. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 38. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 39. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 40. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 41. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 42. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 43. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 44. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 45. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 46. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 47. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 48. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 49. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 50. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 51. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 52. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 53. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 54. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 55. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 56. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 57. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 58. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 59. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 60. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 61. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 62. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 63. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 64. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 65. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 66. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 67. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 68. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 69. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 70. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 71. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 72. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 73. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 74. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 75. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 76. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 77. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 78. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 79. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 80. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 81. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 82. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 83. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 84. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 85. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 86. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 87. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 88. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 89. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 90. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 91. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 92. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 93. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 94. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 95. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 96. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 97. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 98. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 99. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 100. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 101. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 102. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 103. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 104. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 105. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 106. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 107. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 108. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 109. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 110. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 111. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 112. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 113. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 114. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 115. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 116. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire 10-2-2; 117. Lancashire v Derbyshire 10-2-2; 118. Lancashire v Nottinghamshire



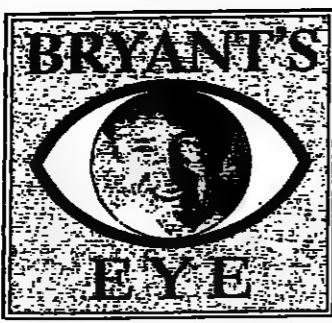
# Sportsmen feel lure of running for office

In America they call them the "political jocks". They are former sportsmen, mostly household names and childhood heroes, who, instead of buying a pub or a sports shop as a retirement career option, opt to go into the world of politics.

There, in the wake of the nomination of Jack Kemp, the former American footballer, as the Republican vice-presidential candidate, they reckon that the political arena is increasingly becoming a natural playing field for sports figures.

The latest to line up for this particular race is Jim Ryun, three times an Olympian and former world mile record-holder. Ryun first made the US Olympic team in 1964 while he was still at high school and still holds the high school record for the mile at 3min 55.3sec. These days he is pounding the campaign trail in Kansas, where he is running for a congressional seat as a Republican.

He is being helped in his vocation by Steve Largent, a former American footballer with the Seattle Seahawks, who is now a congressman for Oklahoma. Although they are political upstarts, they both enjoy the kind of instant recognition that most politicians spend years cultivating.



ing, and pundits reckon that they have a great political future.

But they should beware. The obvious British counterpart of the great Jim Ryun is our own Seb Coe — double Olympic champion and Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne — and he appears to be suffering in the Commons in a way that he rarely did on the track.

In a survey of MPs published by *The Sunday Times*, a tenth of all the members questioned voted Coe one of the least impressive MPs of the 1992 Westminster intake. In Britain, it seems, we don't give our former sportsmen an easy time when they enter the political arena.

STEVE POWELL/ALLSPORT



Seb Coe, the runner, enjoyed a glorious career on the track

There is an uncomfortable ambivalence about sportsmen and women in British political life. The parties, and particularly their leaders, love to identify themselves with sport and the votes that go with it. In his conference speech at Blackpool this week, Tony Blair repeatedly chanted the refrain "Labour's coming home" — echoing the chorus of *Three Lions* and evoking the patriotic excitement of Euro 96. And the best photocall at the Labour conference last year involved Blair in a staged kickabout with Kevin Keegan.

John Major, who has a genuine love of sport, never misses a chance to be pictured at Lord's or the Oval, chatting to the England cricket team. As a former keen schoolboy cricketer he will even pad up or bowl in the nets to catch the eye of the photographers. When the country does well on the sports field, runs the political wisdom, such leaders can hope for some benefit at the ballot box.

But while they like to tap into sporting success, when it comes to making use of former sportsmen in politics, Britain's parties seem far less sure-footed. Not many sportsmen enter the Westminster stakes and when they do they rarely shine.

There are exceptions, of course. One of the most notable was Christopher Chataway, one of Roger Bannister's pacemakers when he broke the four-minute mile barrier in 1954, and once holder of the world record for 5,000 metres. Chataway went on to become Minister for Industrial Development but, significantly, when he was offered the job of Minister of Sport he turned it down. In the Commons at the moment can also be found the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs and defence spokesman and former Olympic sprinter, Menzies Campbell.

Like Coe, such men strive to carve out parliamentary careers that have nothing to do with their sporting past. They divorce themselves from their athletic persons as if they are afraid of being typecast and not being taken seriously.

It is a pity, for sport in this country is lamentably lacking in heavyweight leadership, and could use the expertise and experience of a squad of sportsmen-politicians. In France the sports minister is Guy Drut. He is a former Olympic champion over 110 metres hurdles and he is largely credited with the success of the France team in the Atlanta games. In Brazil the minister in charge of sport



Seb Coe, the politician, has been criticised by his fellow MPs

is the footballing legend, Pele, and it is even said that he has ambitions to be his country's president.

In America the vote-pulling power of sport is so potent that far from playing down their sporting pedigree, the politicians make all they can of it. Jack Kemp constantly reminds the electorate of his 13 seasons as a professional American footballer. When asked if he was ready to serve with Bob Dole, Kemp replied simply: "Quarterbacks are always ready." And no American president seems able to hold office without the props of golf clubs or jogging shoes.

But when Britain's athletes venture into politics they seem all too reluctant to make any mention of their

sporting past. Perhaps a sense of modesty stops them mentioning their youthful triumphs, if so, they could probably learn a trick from Ryun.

His television commercial shows no wins, no records, but focuses on his most disappointing moment as an athlete. That was in the 1972 Olympics in Munich when another runner's fall forced him to crash to the track. Ryun's last hope of a gold medal was ruined, but he got up, hopefully last, and finished the race. He reckons that footage will win him his seat, and launch a great political career in a land where they appreciate their sporting-politicians.

JOHN BRYANT

## Clawing our way back after anguish of poor start

James Capstick files his first report as he heads for Rio de Janeiro as a crew member on Ocean Rover in the BT Global Challenge

THE day before the start of our round-the-world race, I was to be found at home, walking the dog on the common and trying to think of an easy way to say goodbye to my two boys. Although it is planned for us all to meet again in Wellington just after Christmas, it seemed so final for some reason.

That evening I couldn't put it off any longer and, amid many tears, mine included, I said my goodbyes and my wife Tracey drove me down to Southampton. There, thanks to the generosity of our boat

sponsors on Ocean Rover, all the crew members were booked into a posh hotel for the night, with their other halves. The drive down was completed in almost total silence, mainly because Tracey was probably too upset and I was afraid of saying the wrong thing. After arriving at the hotel, things eased a bit as we sat at the bar and we even managed a few jokes.

I never thought I would be able to go to sleep when we went to bed, especially as we had orders from our skipper, Paul Bennett, to do so sober. However, as soon as my head touched the pillow, I was away and the next thing I knew my alarm call came through.

I had a lazy shower (it may be the last for a while), dressed in my Ocean Rover sailing gear and prepared to say goodbye to Tracey. At the last moment, she decided to come down to the boat with me rather than stay at the hotel.

It was a cold, wet and windy morning which matched my mood because, rather than being excited on the morning of the start, I was depressed for some reason. When we arrived at the quay, there were hundreds of people and lots of cameramen trying to capture farewell scenes. We found a quiet spot and hugged and kissed and said all the things you would expect. We both

had a cry and then I walked on to Ocean Rover — my home for the next ten months.

It was very emotional as we slipped our moorings and motored out into Southampton Water. Although putting



Capstick takes his turn at the helm of Ocean Rover

on a brave face, I think most of us were a little bit lost in our own thoughts. We had about four hours to wait before the start at 12.05pm. An early lunch was prepared and the time flew until, together with the other 13 Challenge yachts, we were jockeying for position around the start line, waiting for the gun to go off.

We had a poor start, but over the next 24 hours clawed our way back to the front third of the fleet. During this period watches were dictated by who was seasick and who was not. With about a third of us suffering, it was hard work for those who could stand a watch. But, by the second day, people had started to recover and life began to improve.

We had a brilliant second night with a 12-hour spinaker run and the day dawned bright with dolphins playing on the bow wave. Lovely stuff. We are slowly getting into a routine and the promise of sunshine and blue seas in the next couple of days beckons.

STEPHEN MUNDAY/ALLSPORT

ing it was blowing about a Force 8 and was wet and bumpy.

As we moved in for our start, we had a minor problem with our staysail and I had my head down grinding a winch when someone on board said that we had crossed the line. For me, it was a bit of an anticlimax as I had missed seeing the gun go off.

We had a brilliant start but over the next 24 hours clawed our way back to the front third of the fleet. During this period watches were dictated by who was seasick and who was not. With about a third of us suffering, it was hard work for those who could stand a watch. But, by the second day, people had started to recover and life began to improve.

We had a brilliant second night with a 12-hour spinaker run and the day dawned bright with dolphins playing on the bow wave. Lovely stuff. We are slowly getting into a routine and the promise of sunshine and blue seas in the next couple of days beckons.

Letters, page 21

## Curry feast follows exciting duel in sun

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE BT Global Challenge fleet was passing Cape Finisterre on the northwest tip of Spain last night in a relatively tight bunch, spread over 38 miles with Chris Tibbs, on *Concert*, in the lead, closely followed by Simon Walker, on *Toshiba*, and Mike Golding, on *Group 4*.

During a squally night on Tuesday when crews on all 14 yachts were up and down doing regular sail changes, positions in the heart of the fleet were changing constantly with 3Com, Ocean Rover and Commercial Union in the thick of it.

With the wind easing and plenty of sun yesterday, the crews were beginning to dry out as the average boat speed for the fleet dropped to 8.6 knots. The yachts are now on their way towards the Berlenga Lighthouse, their second waypoint, about 220 miles south of Finisterre.

They will leave Berlenga to starboard before heading down towards Brazil with northeasterlies likely to hold sway for some time.

One of the best dogfights in the fleet came on Tuesday between the defending champion, Nuclear Electric, and *Group 4*. As the crew on

*Group 4* reported yesterday: "A great day's sailing on Tuesday — in the sun — match racing with Nuclear Electric. A nail-biting afternoon ended triumphantly at 1739 hours when we moved ahead, approximately one mile west of them. We had a celebratory supper of vegetable curry and peach Angel Delight."

Most crew members have now overcome seasickness, though *Courtauld* reported three people still "severely sick" yesterday. In common with several others, *Courtauld* is experiencing problems with life jackets self-inflating.

On *Time & Tide*, the disabled crew had their first casualty when Nigel Smith, an amputee, broke his wooden leg. James Hatfield, the skipper, reported that the damage was repaired using flex and duct tape.

*Health Insured II* is reporting the most damage with problems continuing with the rigging screw on the starboard aft lower shroud, plus problems with both heads (lavatories), the generator and the electric bilge pump.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

IMOGEN

(a) Daughter of *Cymbeline*, a woman so pure that virtue shines from her like a light, and who is therefore doomed (in the way of Shakespeare's innocent heroines) to be misused and mistreated by everyone she meets. *Cymbeline* is a hotchpotch of themes that Shakespeare developed better singly later: the grumpy old king, the wicked stepmother, the wicked Italian Iachimo (*Iago*), girls in drag and supposed poison that turns out to be a harmless sleeping-draught.

THAISSA

(a) In *Pericles*, she is the daughter of Simonides, the Prince of Pentapolis, whom Pericles woos and wins. Later, thought to be dead in a storm, she is rescued and brought back to life by Cerimont, 15 years after that, as a dignified priestess of Diana's temple at Ephesus; she is reunited with Pericles. Her lines are few and her character is non-existent.

BUTTS

(b) In *Henry VIII*, Sir William Butts is Henry's physician. He alerts the King to the fact that Crammer is being made to wait in a corridor before the heresy hearing. "Mongrel purveyors! Pages and footboys!"

GONZALO

(a) Alonso's old retainer in *The Tempest*. He is unimaginative and unquestioning, one of those salt-of-the-earth courtiers whose trust (in Shakespeare's plays, at least) is in the office of Prince rather than the rogue who fills it. Although in public he appears a colourless bore, and the villains he associates with steal every scene from him, he is the only person in the play — not excepting Prospero — to envisage the island as a Utopia for other people's benefit before his own.

WITTS

(b) In *Henry VIII*, Sir William Butts is Henry's physician. He alerts the King to the fact that Crammer is being made to wait in a corridor before the heresy hearing. "Mongrel purveyors! Pages and footboys!"

CHRISTOPHER HOPE

(a) Christopher Hope (4/5) *Christopher Hope* (4/5)

5.00 PM 6.50 Shipping Forecast

5.00 Weather

6.00 The Clock News

6.30 The Good Sheba

Ken Livingston, MP, chairs a new panel game about life

and death. With guests Jeremy Hardy, Rebecca Front, Jim Sweeney and Fred MacAulay

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Across the Desert of Death. See Choice (r)

8.00 Shipping Forecast

8.00 The Writer's Day Out

The series in which well-known authors take over from the critics become reporters for the day. This week the comic novelist Richard Franchot takes up the challenge

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The group of cooks for people with disabilities. Presented by Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight. With Jeremy Harris in London and Rob Lustig at the Labour Conference in Blackpool

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Gatsby, Sam Roberts' classic, adapted by Neville Teller (9/10)

11.00 Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter. The final part of the comic novel Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter, with Tom Hollander

12.30 The Late Book: Nice — Songs They Never Play on the Radio (4/8) (r) 12.45 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

## RADIO CHOICE

# Reckless and trackless

Across the Desert of Death. Radio 4, 7.30pm.

They were brave but, it has to be said, slightly idiotic. What did it add to the sum of human knowledge that they found a pile of 2,000-year-old manure and a vast amount of shattered pottery? The Anglo-Chinese expedition in 1993 across 700 miles of the Taklamakan Desert in Western China in 1993 was a "first" for men, camels and a woman. The results, at least, were spared the worrying thought that, translated, the Chinese name for the desert was: "You go in — you never come out". Anglo-Chinese relations could easily have been ruptured when the expedition leader booted a Chinese off the camel on which he was taking an unauthorised ride. He was, when all is said and done, a representative of his Government.

Blood of the Ring Finger. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

The events in Jane Cassidy's drama about superstitious hysteria take place in the Mountains of Mourne, in Ulster, during the early days of the 20th century. I would not blame you for thinking that it could just as well be Massachusetts in the late 17th, the place and time of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. As in Miller's play, sparks of animosity in a physically close-knit community are fanned into flames. All it takes is for someone to encourage the word witchcraft. I had some difficulty sorting out the relationships in *Blood of the Ring Finger*. You might be luckier. Jane Cassidy's use of song to link the unusually short scenes is eerily effective.

Peter Daville

## RADIO 1

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.05 The World Today 7.30 Sports International 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Off the Shell Network 8.15 Words of Faith 8.30 The Moon 8.45 Health Matters 10.05 Business 10.15 Sports International 10.45 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shell 12.30pm Mendian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Islam, Faith and Power 2.05 Outlook 3.30 Multistack 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News 5.00 Europe 5.15 Europe Today 5.30 Europe Today 5.45 Europe Today 5.55 Europe Today 6.00 Europe Today 6.15 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 6.45 Europe Today 6.55 Europe Today 7.00 Europe Today 7.15 Europe Today 7.30 Europe Today 7.45 Europe Today 7.55 Europe Today 8.00 Europe Today 8.15 Europe Today 8.30 Europe Today 8.45 Europe Today 8.55 Europe Today 9.00 Europe Today 9.15 Europe Today 9.30 Europe Today 9.45 Europe Today 9.55 Europe Today 10.00 Europe Today 10.15 Europe Today 10.30 Europe Today 10.45 Europe Today 10.55 Europe Today 11.00 Europe Today 11.15 Europe Today 11.30 Europe Today 11.45 Europe Today 11.55 Europe Today 12.00 Europe Today 12.15 Europe Today 12.30 Europe Today 12.45 Europe Today 12.55 Europe Today 1.00 Europe Today 1.15 Europe Today 1.30 Europe Today 1.45 Europe Today 1.55 Europe Today 1.55 Europe Today

# Ross sheds no light on the Poldark story

**T**here are some people, I suppose, who hear the names Ross and Demelza Poldark, and go all funny at the back of the neck. Poldark is certainly a good name, especially when accented (as it often was last night) on the second syllable. Poldark. Ah-ha, me hearties, it brings out the Robert Newton impersonation in all but the strongest-willed. Even those of us ignorant of Winston Graham's novels, who never watched the old BBC series (with Robin Ellis and Angharad Rees), had a certain respect for such a well-named piece, Poldark. It makes you think of *tin-mines* and lowering coastal scenery, and (as seen on a million book-jackets) rustic Empire-line dresses in coastal settings, surfing and snapping like flags in a stiff sea breeze.

But Poldark, last night (ITV) was awful. Not only was it slow and dull, but it had no atmosphere, and no proper story. A

slice of plodding saga had been extracted and turned into a film — making a narrative with no beginning and no end, just yards and yards of pointless middle. In the course of two hours, what happened? Ross Poldark (John Bowe with long hair and sideburns) returned from Westminster. Jeremy Poldark met an unavailable girl, while his sister Clowance met two boys. Ho hum. The sex terred when it got the chance. A neighbouring landowner came a cropper. And a handsome stranger stirred things up a bit, for motives that were not revealed.

The shortfalls weren't just in the story, either. Why was so little money spent on actors? Each cameo appearance cried aloud for a famously tatty face ("Is that Robert Hardy?")? Perhaps it's Phoebe Nicholls!, but it was a cruel tease: when the camera brought them nearer, they were invariably people you'd never seen in your life

before. As for the principals, Kelly Reilly made a good impression as Clowance (what a ridiculous name) while Mel Martin was pretty as her mum. But John Bowe? Oh God, what a wet weekend he was. To be fair, I do suffer from a unique chemical aversion to Bowe's lackluster performances: he appears on screen and I lose the will to live. How clever these *Prime Suspect* people were, casting him as Marlowe — that blank, unreadable psychopath. Casting a man with no qualities as Ross Poldark, however, seems not very clever at all.

The shortfalls weren't just in the story, either. Why was so little money spent on actors? Each cameo appearance cried aloud for a famously tatty face ("Is that Robert Hardy?")? Perhaps it's Phoebe Nicholls!, but it was a cruel tease: when the camera brought them nearer, they were invariably people you'd never seen in your life

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

similar series. How galling: one minute there are no Detective Amandas, and the next minute there are two. All it needs now is for Amanda de Cadenet to get a series as a police marksman with an unlikely name such as "Torrent", and confusion will be complete.

"Beck" is presumably short for Rebecca, but might also be her surname. It makes me think of mountain streams anyway. "Hey,

whatever! Let's just call her Beck." her parents may have reasoned at the font: "and then one day she'll be on telly running a missing-persons agency with a snappy one-word title for the show!" Christening parties queuing behind were naturally impressed by this decision, and decided to copy it. "Hey, whatever!" they agreed. "Let's call our two Muffy and Tally, and they can be sidekicks — to Beck!" And thus was another set of absurd nicknames foisted on a tolerant public, who said "Hey, whatever, just get on with it!"

Establishing a personality for Beck was easy. She snatched a slice of pizza from someone else's box, ordered her employees about, worked late, neglected a bruised shoulder, wore a black leather skirt and had a lonely bath with candles and champagne. The single career woman, in a nutshell. "What shall we eat?" asked her boyfriend. "Anything with chole-

sterol," she quipped. "Men, why do we need them?" groaned Therese in the office. "Saves on batteries," said Beck, which was a little uncalled for (unless, of course, she was talking about a clock radio).

**S**uch smutty talk aside, the first episode had plenty of plot entailing lost children and lost parents, with Beck by no means a pushover emotionally. Perhaps in future weeks we will learn why the missing-persons business drew her in, when she's not particularly interested in runaways and has no obvious detection skills. Meanwhile we poor strays last night both concerned children who had run away — one shocked by her mother's drinking, the other horrified by his father's sexuality. The script was nothing special and the direction relied too heavily on jumpy camerawork (and music) to make things interesting. On the plus side, Amanda

Redman's hair was lovely. The most memorable drama of the evening, perversely, was also the shortest — BBC2's 10X10 was a film called *You Drive Me*, written and directed by Stef Penney. It was like a French short story. On a lonely rural road, amid acres of waving, waist-high corn, a hitch-hiker (Andrew Tiernan) flagged down an open-topped sports car. Driving it was Anna Friel (of *Brookside* fame), in dark glasses. Would she give him a lift? She said she was frightened. A rear fell down her cheek. The hitch-hiker walked on, then came back. "I'll drive you," he said. At which point she stepped out of the car and walked away, through the corn. "You can't do that," he called after her. But she had, and it was rather startling. And sad to say, it was the best surprise of the night.

• *Matthew Bond* will return next week

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (25311)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (71998)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (580680)
- 9.20 Style Challenge (s) (270715) 9.45 Kilroy (s) (253796) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (17116)
- 11.00 News, Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (812715)
- 11.05 Conference Live: Live coverage of the Labour Party conference (s) (9345222)
- 1.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (74086)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (57664310)
- 1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44614241) 2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (6476716) 2.35 Turnabout (s) (5690002) 3.00 The Terrace (s) (3796)
- 3.30 Little Bear (s) (7558532) 3.45 The Clangers (s) (7558524) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Hamlet Hyde (Ceefax) (s) (6028067) 4.35 Smart (Ceefax) (s) (1088882) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (2608715) 5.10 Byker Grove (Ceefax) (s) (674319)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (227884)
- 6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (84)
- 6.30 Regional news (16)
- 7.00 Watchdog (Ceefax) (s) (5777)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Cindy makes a decision she could regret. (Ceefax) (s) (28)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital. Roll Harris sees the RSPCA's trainee inspectors get lessons from the fire brigade (Ceefax) (s) (4425)
- 8.30 The Hello Girls: Baseline 212. Telephone-exchange comedy set in 1969. The supervisors discover that the girls have been listening in to the top-secret Baseline line. With Letitia Dean, Amy Morton and Colin Wells (Ceefax) (s) (3932)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News, Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (7970)
- 9.30 The X Files: Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose. Clyde Bruckman has a unique gift — he can foretell the deaths of others. Unable to affect the outcome he hides his ability until he stumbles across a serial killer Mulder and Scully try to enlist Bruckman's help in the search for the killer, but soon become targets themselves. (Ceefax) (s) (680195)
- 10.15 They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock competes a game of wit and sporting knowledge "with a difference". Tonight's guests are the Australian comedian and former Neighbours star Mark Little and former England rugby player Brian Moore (Ceefax) (s) (483357)
- 10.45 Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs this week's debate from Blackpool. The panel comprises the businesswoman Lesley Knox and MPes William Haig, Gordon Brown and Charles Kennedy (419532)
- 11.40 FILM: Perfect Witness (1989). A made-for-television movie. A restaurant owner witnesses a gangland murder but is too frightened to testify, despite pressure from the district attorney. With Brian Dennehy, Aidan Quinn and Stockard Channing. Directed by Robert Mandel (Ceefax) (s) (972425)
- 1.25pm-1.30 Weather (2110568)

**Videoplus+** and the Video PlusCodes  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a Videoplus+ remote. Tap in the Videoplus+ code for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+™, Pluscode™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- 6.00am Open University: It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow (7722864) 6.15 A Little Film About Tuesdays (7751999) 6.50 Developing World (Teletext) (9317976)
- 7.15 See Hear Broadcast News (6579864)
- 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (s) (4469845) 7.55 Blue Peter (605222) 8.20 Noddy (s) (1747628) 8.35 Lassie (s) (6452796) 9.00 The IT Collection (s) (2785523) 9.45 Writing and Pictures (Teletext) (s) (1157609) 10.00 Playdays (s) (252222) 10.30 Storyline (s) (s) (1288680) 10.45
- 11.05 Space Ark (s) (6193630) 11.15 Welsh History — Famous People (9509883) 11.35 Landmarks (Teletext) (s) (3132303) 11.55 Christianity in Britain (s) (1119659)
- 12.15pm Hello Aus Berlin (s) (7802009) 12.30 Working Lunch (67608) 1.00 Life-school (s) (2738322) 1.25 Mad About Music (s) (1756816) 1.45 Numbertime (s) (5767479) 2.00 Noddy (s) (s) (1982777)
- 2.10 Conference Live (s) (268087)
- 3.55 News and weather (6855338)
- 4.00 Today's the Day (s) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (41) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (s) (5649864) 6.45 Price Leith's Trick of the Trade (935323)
- 5.55 Breast of Friends (s) (332861)
- 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (865241)
- 6.45 Conference Talk (s) (790322)
- 7.30 The Shoot: An Heilen Dream. David Gepp captures the family backdrop of romantic Vertice (Teletext) (s) (70)
- 8.00 The Works. The series on the arts and popular culture returns with a profile of Peter Green, formerly of Fleetwood Mac (Teletext) (s) (2067)
- 8.20 Top Gear: Jeremy Clarkson gives his verdict on Jaguar's new couple. Tony Mason takes his three-wheeler to the race track for the Reliant Robin Championship. And Steve Berry tries out the Honda Blackbird, a new breed of superbike (Teletext) (s) (1574)
- 8.00 Neverwhere: Blackfriars. An urban fantasy with Gary Bakewell, Laura Fraser, Hywel Bennett and Peter Capaldi (s) (512)
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars, even-declining congregations and the current row over homosexual priests are the other main props of a programme which manages at the same time to be both irreverent and sympathetic.
- 8.30 Canterbury Tales: Ian Hislop concludes his shrewd and witty survey of the Church of England by considering its poorer parishes. Being Hislop, he mischievously suggests that the Church leader with the firmest grip on traditional moral values was not an archbishop but Margaret Thatcher. Lord Runcie, much in the news recently, provides more lively copy. As he recalls being on the sharp end, Thatcher's wrath. Hislop's detailed vignettes of Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, a traditionalist who attended commercial and Premium Bonds, and Michael Ramsey, who looked a hundred but was the same age as Cary Grant. Trendy vicars,



## EQUESTRIANISM 44

Horse of the Year Show opens in style

## SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1996

## SAILING 46

James Capstick adjusts to life on the waves



England coach's sobering thoughts

# Hoddle plans new national health service

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GLENN HODDLE'S new England is taking shape with distinctive and sober departure from the manner in which Terry Venables achieved the minimum for a nation hosting the European championship, the semi-finals, at Wembley a few months ago. When the players return to the stadium next Wednesday, for a World Cup qualifying game against Poland for which 60,000 tickets have already been sold, the spectators can be sure of one thing: whatever their team sweats out that night, it will not contain alcohol.

The England squad gathered at Bisham Abbey yesterday. They will now be cloistered in their hotel at Burnham Beeches and let out occasionally to train at Wembley. All else, for the next seven days, will be off-limits.

This new way of living excludes everything else for seven days and seven nights: no family visits, no girlfriends, no nightife. And yet it will be humane. The players can, with permission, and with Hoddle's blessing, get out on the golf course or go fishing on Sunday, so long as they eat, sleep and think football together.

Hoddle was pressed on whether this might not be a recipe for high carbohydrate boredom. "Who knows? There might be some players who get bored with their families," he said.

"This is the way they do it

abroad," Hoddle, who had his halcyon days as a player with Monaco in the South of France, said. "If we're going to go forward and do well at this level, there has to be a certain amount of sacrifice. It cannot be done without commitment. That's what I feel is needed, it is the way I want things done, and the players will have to live with it."

One can hear, from the length and breadth of the country, relief that here, apparently, is a new coach — a man-manager — intent on clearing up the image of the game. Intent, moreover, on ensuring that under his re-

Striker on song ..... 42  
Rule changes ..... 43  
Gullif hopeful ..... 43  
Everton protest ..... 43

gim there will be no question of players preparing in the "dentist's chair", but rather dedicating themselves solidly for seven days to the task in hand.

However, before imagination runs rife and we consider that Hoddle has set an assault course against the freedom of the individual, hear him out. "Image is not the priority," he said. "Three points, in this match and others until we qualify for the World Cup, is number one. I happen to believe that players perform best when they eat properly, rest properly, and prepare in a

controlled environment. Will they have a drink? Of course. I'm not dealing with schoolkids. I need to treat them like adults. They'll have a few beers over the weekend ... if they wish to."

While the coach was setting out his criteria, insisting that although his home is closer than the players' to Bisham Abbey, he will not be going home this weekend, one looked across at Dominic Matteo. The Liverpool centre-back, a possible *libero* for England's future, is the "baby" of the squad. He arrived with a niggling knee injury that required an injection to quell inflammation after the game at West Ham United on Sunday. He stood a forlorn figure, on the edge of training yesterday.

His inclusion, though, emphasises that change is about to be tactical as well as temperamental. Matteo, when England were progressing in the European championship, was fifth choice centre back at Anfield. He shakes his head even now, considering the way the Liverpool coaching staff kept him going. "They were telling me to keep at it, telling me that it was about improving my mental attitude rather than anything else. Obviously it was frustrating, because I was so close to Robbie [Fowler]; it wasn't jealousy, but you want to be doing it yourself."

He talked, openly and honestly, of needing to improve facets of his game. "I wouldn't say I am a tackler," he said. Neither did he look comfortable when Slaven Bilic and Marc Rieper were thrown at Liverpool in aerial combat on Sunday. Yet he is on the brink of England selection.

"Nowadays, at the back, it's important that you've got a good touch, that you can pass the ball, read the game," Matteo said. There lies the key to Hoddle's new road: he wants to build the game up from defence.

The coach enthused at Bisham yesterday over the condition and application of

contingent was not present when the seven-day concentration camp opened yesterday; Hoddle found the time to be flexible, allowing them to clock in this morning because they had a long-standing club commitment at Old Trafford.

Paul Gascoigne. "I played him with a little bit of risk in Moldova, because he had an Achilles problem and wasn't 100 per cent," he said. "Look at him, he's now fitter, he looks leaner."

The Manchester United

contingent was not present when the seven-day concentration camp opened yesterday; Hoddle found the time to be flexible, allowing them to clock in this morning because they had a long-standing club commitment at Old Trafford.

But, once installed, they will be asked for the sacrifice, the commitment of the others. Hoddle points to Brazil. Thank goodness he never heard Joao Saldanha, the maverick coach who built the incomparable Brazil team of 1970. "We make all these rules in our camp," Saldanha said, "but they are rules for the press. I tell you, some of my players are bandits, and if they want to drink or do other things, my number one rule is that the press don't find out."

Another club whose future is uncertain is Wimbledon, who are attempting to move to Dublin from their present home at Selhurst Park. An Irish consortium, led by Paul McGuinness, the manager of the rock group U2, and Owen O'Callaghan, the Cork property developer, has agreed sale terms with the Premiership club. UEFA, football's European governing body, said yesterday it was against the move, although the consortium is believed to have taken advice that if UEFA tried to block the proposal, it could be charged with restraint of trade.

## Walkinshaw shows reasons why Hill will have licence to thrill

Oliver Holt takes a look behind the scenes at the hi-tech headquarters of TWR Arrows

Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka a week on Sunday and the future will begin.

That future, Walkinshaw insisted yesterday, will hold podium finishes for Hill next season and possibly even the odd win. With a quiet confidence, the Scot who inspired Benetton's rise and rise with Michael Schumacher, also predicted that TWR Arrows would be fighting "head-to-head" with Williams on the constructors' championship by 2000.

"I think Damon was surprised when he came here last week," Walkinshaw said. "He thought that after Williams, with the options he had available to him, he would be joining a third division outfit.

Arrows is now in name only the same team that has contested 287 grands prix without registering a single victory. Even its name would be different if other team owners did not object to the change to TWR proposed by Walkinshaw when he bought a controlling interest in it earlier this season.

The last remnants of the old team, though, will be cast off when this season ends at the

finishes and if we can get to the podium, there is no reason why we cannot win one or two grands prix. We want to be in the top five constructors next year, the top three the year after that and challenging for the championship by 2000."

Walkinshaw said he would not ask Hill to start testing for the team until at least a month after the Japanese Grand Prix, a race where he needs one point to secure this year's title from his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, because the Englishman would be either too elated or too downcast to concentrate on the job before then.

"This Arrows is different to the Arrows of before. We had what we inherited and there was very little we could do about it this season. We decided immediately to focus all our energies on next year's motor car and Damon has had a pretty good insight into what it will be like."

"We have set various goals and they are realistic goals. The first thing is to get Damon on the podium so that he can get a smell of success. We expect to get several podium

options and if we can get to the podium, there is no reason why we cannot win one or two grands prix. We want to be in the top five constructors next year, the top three the year after that and challenging for the championship by 2000."

Walkinshaw said he would not ask Hill to start testing for the team until at least a month after the Japanese Grand Prix, a race where he needs one point to secure this year's title from his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, because the Englishman would be either too elated or too downcast to concentrate on the job before then.

"This Arrows is different to the Arrows of before. We had what we inherited and there was very little we could do about it this season. We decided immediately to focus all our energies on next year's motor car and Damon has had a pretty good insight into what it will be like."

"We have set various goals and they are realistic goals. The first thing is to get Damon on the podium so that he can get a smell of success. We expect to get several podium

options and if we can get to the podium, there is no reason why we cannot win one or two grands prix. We want to be in the top five constructors next year, the top three the year after that and challenging for the championship by 2000."

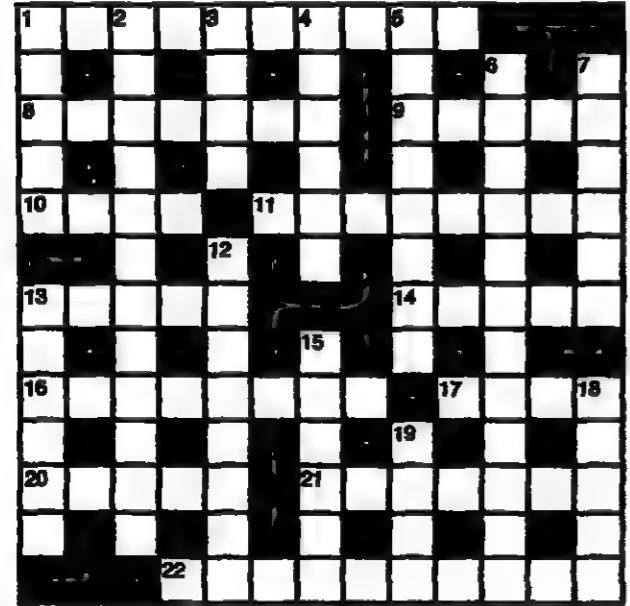
Damon has got to show the world that he can deliver results in a motor car other than a Williams," Walkinshaw said. "I want him to be the catalyst to extract the performance out of everyone in the company, the centre of focus. If everything goes well, we will sit down early and negotiate a long-term deal."

At one stage of the tour, Walkinshaw, 50, pointed out a wooden shed in the grounds of the site, once used by Scott of the Antarctic to prepare for his ill-fated expedition. Anyone who had thought Damon Hill was setting out on some fruitless journey into a wilderness, though, was already thinking again.



### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 903 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



**ACROSS**

- 1 Casual purchase (7,3)
- 2 Lack of success (7)
- 3 Main force of blow (5)
- 4 List of work turns (4)
- 5 Dishonest (8)
- 6 Terrifying (lit.); very bad (5)
- 7 A duck, it's down for warmth (5)
- 8 Sumptuously beautiful (8)
- 9 Sour; sharp (wit) (4)
- 10 A European; a vegetable (5)
- 11 Celebrate gladly (7)
- 12 [Group] draw together for safety (5,5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Deduce (5)
- 2 Procedural question (5,2,5)
- 3 Tasteless; deafening (4)
- 4 Vim (6)
- 5 Wild; continuous (8)
- 6 Sphere of (legal) authority (12)
- 7 One suitable for long race (6)
- 8 Spring plant, carpets woods (8)
- 9 A month; imposing (6)
- 10 The pride that causes a fall (6)
- 11 Clothing (5)
- 12 Almost shut (4)

**PRIZES:**  
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic international network.  
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.  
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

**SOLUTION TO NO 902**  
**ACROSS:** 1 Go to show 5 Calf 8 Error 9 Founder 11 Fey 12 Innocence 13 Low-key 15 Indeed 16 Mont Blanc 19 Cur 20 Subject 21 On ice 22 Sage 23 Personal  
**DOWN:** 1 Gleeful 2 Tardy 3 Serviceable 4 Offend 6 Al dente 7 Force 10 Unconscious 14 Windbag 16 Durrell 17 Castle 18 Moses 19 Cairn



Brighton likely to escape heavy punishment

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion Football Club could escape having three points deducted despite the three pitch invasions that marked their Nationwide League third division match against Lincoln City at the Goldstone Ground on Tuesday.

As Brighton supporters threatened to demonstrate this weekend at the Lancashire home of Bill Archer, the club chairman, the FA said it would study the reports of the referee and its observer before deciding whether to go ahead with the suspended sentence hanging over the club.

Last April, the Brighton followers, irate at the sale of the Goldstone Ground and the uncertainty surrounding the club's future, invaded the pitch after the home game against York City. The FA imposed a suspended sentence of a three-point deduction and having to play one match behind closed doors.

However, Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said yesterday: "At least it was a peaceful protest and that will be taken into account. We are relieved that no one was injured and that there were none of the scenes that surrounded the game with York. Another charge has to be brought for the possibility of a suspended sentence to come into effect."

Ian Hart, an official of the Brighton Independent Supporters' Association, said yesterday that a substantial number of Brighton followers would be distributing leaflets in Archer's home village this weekend. There is deadlock in negotiations between the Brighton board and the consortium, which is attempting to buy the club.

Another club whose future is uncertain is Wimbledon, who are attempting to move to Dublin from their present home at Selhurst Park. An Irish consortium, led by Paul McGuinness, the manager of the rock group U2, and Owen O'Callaghan, the Cork property developer, has agreed sale terms with the Premiership club. UEFA, football's European governing body, said yesterday it was against the move, although the consortium is believed to have taken advice that if UEFA tried to block the proposal, it could be charged with restraint of trade.

computing printing copying imaging

A fax with all the answers

Question: What kind of a machine is a combined fax and answerphone?

Answer: The Canon plain paper B110.

For details call us free on 0500 246 246.

If anyone can Canon can.

Canon

# THE TIMES



INSIDE  
SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



## BUSINESS

Anatole Kaletsky  
on Club Med's  
EMU prospects  
PAGES 23-31



## ARTS

Bold and brilliant:  
Ken Campbell  
roars back  
PAGES 32-34



## EDUCATION

David Blunkett  
reveals his plans  
for schools  
PAGE 35

TELEVISION  
AND RADIO  
PAGES  
42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 1996

Customer benefits delayed as Ofgas makes MMC referral

# British Gas rejects price cuts

By OLIVER AUGUST

GAS consumers will have to wait an extra six months for a proposed average £28 cut in their annual bills, Ofgas, the industry regulator, said yesterday.

The rejection by British Gas of a new price formula for Transco, its pipeline business, has forced Ofgas to refer the pricing issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Gas said the new

concerned as to whether there will be adequate resources to sustain what is really a first-class quality distribution system, the best in the world."

Yesterday's move follows months of negotiations between Ofgas and British Gas over the pricing formula. In May, Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Gas Supply, published her initial pricing proposals, which included a price cut of 20 per cent in the first year.

The arguments that followed centred around the basis on which the company's costs and assets were to be calculated. In August, Ms Spottiswoode made a few minor concessions which she is now threatening to withdraw.

She said: "Ofgas's proposals would provide substantially lower prices to customers, while ensuring that British Gas could continue to finance its transportation business.

"So far as shareholders are concerned, our proposals ensure a fair return on the portion of each shareholder's interest in the transportation business."

Ms Spottiswoode also accused British Gas of running a campaign to blacken her name, using psychological profiles of her. This campaign had been a waste of time and effort, she said, because it would not influence her decision or the MMC.

"I was told by several sources that British Gas had psychological profiles done of me. If these profiles were accurate they would know that I won't be intimidated by their public campaign against me," she said.

British Gas vehemently denied blackening Ms Spottiswoode's name or commissioning psychological profiles of her.

Ms Spottiswoode will officially make the referral to the MMC on Monday. The inquiry is expected to last six months.

The Gas Consumers' Coun-

— RICHARD GIORDANO

formula would lead to a £400 million drop in annual revenues, preventing efficient levels of investment in the pipeline system and threatening dividend payments to shareholders.

Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman, said: "We will get a reasoned look at the problem by the MMC. Frankly, we see little prospect that we could do worse. The cuts are so large that we are seriously

concerned as to whether there will be adequate resources to sustain what is really a first-quality distribution system; the best in the world."

— RICHARD GIORDANO



Clare Spottiswoode claims she has been the subject of a smear campaign by British Gas but will not be intimidated

ci said it was disappointed by what it was told but not surprised. Ian Powe, the director, said: "It will be well into next year before consumers know whether their hopes of lower gas bills will be met. But too much was at stake for either side to back down."

"Defeat for British Gas

would devalue its asset base and prompt predators to pick up the pieces at bargain prices. Defeat for Ofgas could signal an end to a regulatory system where one person can influence the fortunes of millions of shareholders and millions of consumers."

In the wake of the increasing

acrimonious relationship with Ms Spottiswoode, British Gas yesterday also called for a general overhaul of regulatory framework. Philip Rogerson, the deputy chairman, said: "I think the regulation system probably requires some amendment. I think it naturally leads to confrontation. It puts a great deal of power in the hands of one individual, the regulator in one particular industry or company. In that respect it probably requires an overhaul."

British Gas shares closed 6½p lower at 193p.

Peanington, page 25

## Power struggle looms for Grid

By KEITH RODGERS

THE prospect of National Grid taking its battle with Ofgas, the electricity regulator, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission loomed large yesterday as the watchdog stuck to its tough stand on transmission price controls.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, made only modest changes to the proposals he published earlier this summer, despite coming under fierce attack from the company last month. His proposals mean customers will benefit by almost £1 billion over the next four years, resulting in an annual saving of around £400 million on a £300 billion bill.

National Grid, which has until October 30 to respond to the proposal, refused to comment in detail yesterday. However, analysts argued that there is an even chance that it will seek an MMC inquiry.

Union reaction was also strong, with the Engineers and Managers' Association arguing that the proposal will result in 800 job losses and that Britain could face blackouts if there is another hurricane.

Under Professor Littlechild's proposal, prices will be cut 20 per cent in the first year, followed by a limit of RPI-4 in the next three years. Operating costs will have to fall at least 4 per cent per year, cost of capital is set at 7 per cent and capital expenditure has been raised by £60 million to £775 million.

In the controversial area of asset valuation, Professor Littlechild raised his initial figure by £150 million to £4.15 billion — still far below National Grid's own estimate — after rethinking his assessment of the Grid's telecommunications arm, Energis.

Analysts said earnings per share could fall by 30 per cent as a result of the review, with one suggesting that the sale of Energis is now essential.

Tempus, page 26

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDEXES

	4000.0	(-15.1)
FTSE 100	3,915	
FTSE All share	1,988.75	(-5.57)
Midex	2,133.50	
New York	5,821.67	(-2,307)*
Dow Jones	5,822.22	(-1,759)*
S&P Composite		

### US RATE

	5.4%	(0.1%)
Federal Funds	5.4%	(0.1%)
Long Bond	5.65%	(0.34%)
Yield		

### LONDON MONEY

	8.7%	(0.1%)
3-month Interbank	8.7%	(0.1%)
12-month gilt future (Dec)	10.0%	(11.0%)

### STERLING

	1.5883	(1.5853)
London		
S	1.5881	(1.5870)
FF	2.3871	(2.3845)
BP	1.2538	(1.2578)
SP	1.5847	(1.5838)
Yen	174.57	(175.17)
E Index	67.3	(67.3)

### US DOLLAR

	1.5280*	(1.5282)
London		
FF	1.5280*	(1.5282)
BP	1.2538	(1.2578)
SP	111.65	(111.88)
Yen	97.8	(97.8)

Tokyo close Yen 111.88

### NORTH SEA OIL

	822.85	(822.80)
Brent 15-day (Dec)		

### EUROPE

	637.95	(636.80)
London close		

\* denotes midday trading price

## Removal bill

The North Sea oil industry faces an £8.7 billion bill to remove abandoned oil rigs, an energy consultant reported yesterday. The top three oil companies, Shell, Esso and BP face a combined bill of £3.5 billion. The calculations follow Shell's problems with the Brent Spar platform.

Page 29

## New Labour

Businesses think new Labour is more in touch with its needs although they still lack confidence in its ability to manage the economy. They believe income tax would rise. Page 24

## Markets wary on US jobs figures

By GEORGE STEVENS

MARKETS slipped back from record levels yesterday in anticipation of American monthly jobs figures due to be published later today.

The jobs figures have caused mayhem on markets several times this year and, after the Fed's decision to hold interest rates, greater nervousness is expected, especially if the economy shows signs of strong growth.

Yesterday, however, the US Commerce Department reported that new orders to American factories tumbled at the sharpest rate in 3½ years during August.

Orders were down a surprisingly steep 1.9 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$311.1 billion, the largest monthly decline since a 2.2 per cent decrease in January 1993. Backlogs of unfilled orders weakened and inventories mounted.

The August decline more than erased a 1.7 per cent July orders gain. Separately, the Labour Department reported new applications for jobless

## Tunnel joy tempered by banks

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TEAHOUSE  
CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL faced a double threat to its refinancing plans yesterday as it hinted that trading in its shares, suspended on Monday at 114p, would resume early next week.

Both of these numbers support the view that the economy will be moderating for the balance of the year," said one analyst.

For the monthly figure due later today, economists expect payrolls to rise 166,000 for September, considerably slower than the 250,000 increase in August. Average hourly earnings and the American unemployment rate are expected to increase marginally.

Robert Rubin, Treasury Secretary, asked about the factory orders fall-off, said there was no cause for worry about the economy if a six- to 12-month view was considered.

He said: "I think far and away the most likely scenario is continuation of solid growth, obviously not at the same level as the second quarter."

Markets, page 26

## Stock Exchange unveils reforms

By ROBERT MILLER

THE London Stock Exchange unveiled plans yesterday to introduce the most radical changes since Big Bang to the way in which shares in the top 100 companies are traded.

Officials at the Stock Exchange, at the publication of the operational and regulatory framework document for the introduction of automated order-driven trading for FTSE 100 stocks, said the new system would benefit both institutional and retail investors.

Gavin Casey, chief executive of the Stock Exchange, said the new trading system should be ready by the end of next year and could lead to lower dealing costs for private investors.

Under the system, investors will place orders through Stock Exchange member firms, such as stockbrokers. Once these are placed on the universal order book, the buy or sell instructions will be executed at the best possible price. The exchange said the new system would create "a level playing field" for all investors and will not just favour the professional

London, page 25

## THE DALVEY CALCULATOR CASE

# Managers warmer towards Labour says institute poll

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE business community thinks new Labour is more in touch with its needs though it still lacks confidence in Labour's ability to manage the economy and strongly believes income tax would rise under a Labour government, new survey evidence today shows.

Leaders of the Institute of Management, which represents more than 73,000 individual managers and 700 corporate member firms, employing three million people, polled a sample of managers on business attitudes to new Labour in the week of its party conference in Blackpool.

According to the IOM's survey, published today, as many as 31 per cent of the managers polled believe that new Labour is more in touch with business than the old Labour Party, and the Institute says today on the basis of its findings that "key Labour policies are now finding favour with managers".

On specific Labour issues, 59 per cent think Labour is right to propose a windfall tax on the profits of the privatised utilities, while the same number believe a minimum wage set at as much as £4 an hour — higher than any figure a Labour government would be likely to set — would not "significantly" increase their employment costs, though 28 per cent believe it would.

As many as 93 per cent of the sample of 386 managers advocate full involvement in negotiations over a single currency, with the same number maintaining that the UK should be involved in any negotiations on European socialist charter proposals — in spite of the Conservative Government's opt-out from it.

But managers remain sceptical about Labour's economic competence, with more than half — 56 per cent — believing that Labour does not have a clear strategy for the UK economy, and clear majorities saying that a Labour government could not be trusted to control government borrowing, at 60 per cent of those sampled, government spending, at 61 per cent, and to keep inflation low and under control, at 63 per cent.

Britain's managers are also making clear their concern about how a future Labour government might affect their own incomes and taxes, with as many as 78 per cent saying that they believe an increase in income tax would be more likely under Labour, and three fifths believing they personally would be worse off with a Labour government.

The IOM plans to conduct a similar poll during next week's Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth, which Institute leaders believe will offer the opportunity for a direct comparison of the current state of business opinion on the main political parties.



Tony Blair's policies are finding favour with business

## Rank talks over Hard Rock plan

By RICHARD THOMSON

RANK ORGANISATION has confirmed that it is holding talks with Donald Trump, the US property developer, to convert an Atlantic City casino into the trappings of the famous Hard Rock Café.

The deal would require Rank to "retheme" the entire Trump Castle casino and hotel and install a Hard Rock Café inside. It would take 100 per cent of the revenues from the cafe and Mr Trump would continue to take the revenues generated by the casino and hotel.

Jim Berk, chief executive of the restaurant company, said: "This is an opportunity for creating a niche in a City that does not get much of the 21 to 40-year-old age group. Right now we're not taking a stake in the casino. We do not have a gambling licence or the management expertise to handle casinos."

Hard Rock is already installing a restaurant inside Mr Trump's Taj Mahal casino, also in Atlantic City, which is due to open in November. The aim is to attract a younger clientele to the gambling tables to counter growing competition.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Deutsche Bank risks strike over sick pay

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest commercial bank, yesterday came under threat of industrial action after deciding to adopt a tougher sick-pay regime for its 40,000 German employees. The bank's move is based on new legislation introduced in Germany last Tuesday, which cuts salary payments to sick workers to 80 per cent of gross wages, from 100 per cent.

Germany's banking unions have warned financial institutions that they will take strike action if sick pay is cut. The legislation has already caused labour unrest in the car industry. Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank's rival, has said that it will implement the new sick-pay laws.

### Martin on course

MARTIN International, which supplies clothes to Marks & Spencer, lifted its UK sales 22 per cent in the six months to June 30, after last year's management shake-up and extra productivity put it on course to return to profitability by the year end. Sales were £41.8 million (£33.8 million) at the half way stage, while losses were £453,000 before tax (£1.34 million loss). Michael Kidd, chairman, said he was confident of much stronger progress in the second half. The dividend stays at 4.5p, to be paid on January 2.

### Millennium shares rise

SHARES of Millennium Chemicals, the former Hanson company which joined the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday, recovered from their post-flotation flop yesterday, as demand from US investors began to outpace the influx of shares from the UK. After opening at \$23 on Tuesday, the shares fell to \$21.50 on Wednesday, but hit a high of \$23.50 by early afternoon. Traders said that UK shareholders were still selling in bulk, mostly through reluctance to hold on to a US equity.

### Publishing 'buoyant'

PUBLISHERS from most countries at the world's biggest book fair yesterday described business as buoyant. The glaring exception was the US, where, said Alberto Vitale, chairman of Random House, "business is flat as a board". Frankfurt has drawn more than 9,200 publishers from 110 countries to its 1996 fair. About 80 per cent of all global rights are concluded there. Susan Blackwell, of the Australian Publishers Association, said: "Paper prices have stabilised. The chaos of last year is a thing of the past."

### European sales lift BWI

RESURGENCE in European markets helped BWI, the packaging and process machinery producer, to overcome shrinking sales at home, reporting pre-tax profits of £8.32 million (£7.1 million) in the year to July 31. Recovering demand for capital equipment lifted sales from continental Europe by 21 per cent, to £23.4 million, but the company gave warning that this growth had slowed. Overall, sales grew from £90.4 million to £97 million. An unchanged final dividend of 4.5p, payable January 3, makes the total 7.3p.

### Warning on Jaguar

DEMAND in the US for the Jaguar XK8, the new model on which much of the British luxury car manufacturer's fortunes depend, is likely to be weak, experts said as the company begins filling showrooms with the car this week. The US is the key market for Jaguar — owned by Ford — taking most of its annual output. "Sports cars are a dying, shrinking market," said Peter Schmidt of Automotive Industry Data. One US dealer is offering titanium painted XK8s for \$4,974.

### Irish credit growth up

THE IRISH REPUBLIC'S Central Bank will be forced to continue its tightrope act, trying to restrain private sector credit growth while maintaining the punt's value, after the adjusted annual rate of growth of private sector credit rose to 14.3 per cent in August, from 13.8 per cent in July. The annual rate of growth in residential mortgage lending climbed to 16.3 per cent, from 16.1 per cent. At the start of the year, the Central Bank said it wanted both figures at about 10 per cent. It fears medium-term inflationary pressures.

### US insurer reveals \$20m fraud

By ROBERT MILLER

PRUDENTIAL Securities of America, the world's largest insurer which looks after \$27 billion, has confirmed that an employee in its Tokyo securities office had embezzled \$20 million from clients.

The losses, which involved the misappropriation of stock certificates and cash by a Japanese employee, were discovered in June last year after an internal audit, the Prudential's head office in New York said yesterday.

The unnamed assistant, who had already left Prudential Securities (Japan) when the firm sold its membership of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in November 1994, confessed that the certificates had been misappropriated over a two-year period between 1993 and 1995. The cash was embezzled on a single day.

A spokeswoman for the Prudential said: "The losses were covered by insurance and all clients have been reimbursed in full." She believed the matter was now in the hands of the Tokyo metropolitan police.

Pennington, page 25

### CBI cautions on strength of sterling

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry said yesterday that it is too early to tell whether sterling's strength is hurting British exporters.

The pound leapt above the DM2.40 mark yesterday for the first time since early 1995, before settling back to around DM2.370 in late trading. Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economic analysis, said that he had not picked up any worsening in the situation for exporters so far but that the next industrial trends survey this month should give some insight into whether companies are concerned.

The pound's recent strength has been based on a variety of factors. It has profited from a positive view of the British economy, which has low inflation and accelerating growth as well as dollar strength. But another major factor has been the expectation that Labour will win the election and is more likely than the Conservative Party to take the pound into a single currency.

A spokeswoman for the Prudential said: "The losses were covered by insurance and all clients have been reimbursed in full." She believed the matter was now in the hands of the Tokyo metropolitan police.

Pennington, page 25

Optimism grows, page 25

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sells	Bank Buy	Bank Sells
Australia S	2.07	1.91	0.807	0.555
Belgium Fr	17.82	16.32	2.838	2.667
Canada S	2.235	2.025	2.078	1.925
Denmark Kr	0.785	0.710	10.72	10.57
Finland Mark	7.70	7.05	252.50	225.70
Germany Dm	8.51	7.86	54.40	49.50
Greece Dr	2.52	2.25	197.50	194.50
Hong Kong S	12.74	11.74	10.99	10.57
Ireland P	1.02	0.95	2.10	1.95
Ireland Shk	5.38	4.73	2.00	1.85
Italy Lira	2489	2334	147.00	136.00
Japan Yen	188.90	172.90	1.655	1.533
UK £				

Notes for small denomination bank notes from Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveler's cheques. Rates as of close of trading yesterday.

# MASSIVE TINY SALE!

THIS AMAZING OFFER INCLUDES:

- 1 FAST 8-SPEED MULTIMEDIA PC WITH LATEST INTEL CHIPSET MOTHERBOARD**
- 2 COLOUR PRINTER**
- 3 LOTUS SMARTSUITE OR MICROSOFT FAMILY PACK**
- 4 WINDOWS 95**

ALL THIS FOR AN INCREDIBLE

**£949 EXC VAT      £1115.07 INC VAT**

**BUT HURRY — OFFER ENDS SOON**

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers' specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Offers are offered for sale subject to our standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation.

**PRICE EXCLUDES DELIVERY**

**TRY BEFORE YOU BUY! THERE'S A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU—CALL IN TODAY!**

**BIRMINGHAM**  
79 Small Brook, Queen'sway, Birmingham  
Tel: 0121-633 0903

**BRISTOL**  
Union Galleria, The Galleries Shopping Centre  
Brockmead, Bristol Tel: 0117-930099

**CHELMSFORD**  
3 Market Road, Chelmsford  
Tel: 01245-252245

**CROYDON**  
15 St Georges Walk, Croydon Tel: 0181-760 0076

**GLASGOW**  
52 Queen Street, Glasgow Tel: 0141-204 2300

**LEEDS**  
Unit 3.5, Theatre Walk, The Headrow Centre, Leeds  
Tel: 0113-242 5111

**LONDON**  
Sonic Foto Center, 256 Tottenham Court Rd, London  
Tel: 0171-636 7613

**KINGSTON**  
8 Castle Street, Kingston upon Thames Tel: 0181-549 9054

**MANCHESTER**  
Unit 4, Piccadilly Plaza, Mosley Street, Manchester  
Tel: 0161-237 5115

**NEWCASTLE**  
7 High Friars, Eldon Square, Newcastle  
Tel: 0191-261 5252

**NOTTINGHAM**  
UNIT 57, Upper Mall (next to boots), The Victoria Centre, Nottingham Tel: 0115-941 9461

**READING**  
102 Broad Street Mall (Upper Level), Reading  
Tel: 01734 596444

**WATFORD**  
42 Charter Place (upper level) Watford Herts  
Tel: 01923-210020

**OPENING TOMORROW 5TH OCTOBER**

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Unit 8, The Barge Shopping Centre,  
Southampton Tel: 01703-232261  
**OPENS 10TH OCTOBER**

**tiny**  
direct to you!

**CALL NOW FOR OTHER SPECIAL BUNDLES!**  
**01293-821333**  
OR FAX: 01293 822514

**TINY COMPUTERS LTD, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB**

British Gas plumps for the MMC  Reuters riles the Revenue  Heading towards an order-driven market

MOST boards dread a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. For British Gas, it is a corporate cry for help. Management is stretched to breaking point by government intervention, by regulatory attack, by staff cuts, by accelerated changes in computer systems, by mounting losses on take-or-pay gas contracts, by the demerger recommended by the MMC last time, by proposed new structural changes, by the threat of a Labour levy and by the headlong fall of its stock market value — among other things.

Conservatives meeting in Blackpool next week might recall that, ahead of the 1992 election, they were proud of the privatised gas industry, whether or not they were among its 1.7 million shareholders. They should ask why this great enterprise now looks at risk of collapsing.

Much of the blame rests with government. Along with Ofgas, it rejected the 1993 MMC study, which recommended that full competition in the domestic market be left until 2000-2003 and be brought in with care. Instead it is being accelerated to 1998.

Ofgas's ludicrous price proposals for Transco, the core pipeline distribution business, bear little relation to conventional utility regulation. On British Gas forecasts, they would cut Transco's after-tax cash flow

by an average of £400 million a year from the present £721 million. Ofgas' calculations were themselves dire. They implied that British Gas would have to slash its dividend, even if it met Ofgas' cost targets.

The price cuts were needed to ensure that small domestic customers do not have to pay more under the new regime. So they assume that operating costs will fall faster, rather than rising in the short-term to cope with extra complexity.

Ofgas has had to do some fancy conceptual footwork, arbitrarily curtailing the allowed value of Transco assets and the depreciation Transco is allowed to charge its customers. That helps explain why British Gas should appeal to such a stern regulator-friendly body as the MMC. If the MMC rejects the appeal and says Ofgas is right on asset value and depreciation, it will also have to say it was itself wrong on these matters in 1993.

If the MMC's Graeme Odgers is brave, he will ask some tough questions about the purpose of regulation. Most people thought it was act as a proxy for competition:

to protect customers from profiteering and to give an incentive to efficiency. Ofgas is now proxy for a monopoly buyer, aiming to contract out services at the lowest feasible price.

As the 9.5 per cent yield on British Gas shares shows, this view is short-term. Credit ratings are falling and the cost of capital rising sharply. In the long run, consumers will have to pay. Ofgas thinks Transco is virtually risk-free. Investors in Transco International, main successor to British Gas, should therefore insist that their risk capital is withdrawn as fast as possible in dividends and replaced with debt.

#### Funds' loophole closes closure

THE big pension funds have been supping so well and for so long at this particular Last Chance Saloon that someone had to call time eventually. That clever £613 million Reuters handout seems to have proved the last straw for the Inland Revenue, never an admirer of the tax laws surrounding share buybacks

#### PENNINGTON



and special dividends and the rewards they offer such funds.

Readers who are not well up on tax law may not appreciate that every time a company with too much cash decides to hand some back to shareholders, the public exchequer has to make a contribution too. As the law stands, when the company puts up the money, those shareholders who do not pay tax, and these include the big pension funds, can claim back the 20 per cent advance corporation tax already paid by the company itself.

So a sum equivalent to anything up to a fifth of the amount being handed out may be paid to those pension funds in addition by the public purse. The wrinkle was used by several of those

overseas companies who were buying British utilities a year ago to raise the value of their bids. As a result taxpayers, that is, you and me, may have helped a non-British taxpayer to pay for the purchase of our local electricity company, which is nice work if you can get it.

So far this year investors have received more than £7 billion from special dividends and buybacks, which is an awful lot of lost tax. The Revenue loathes this, naturally. Reuters's special dividend was such an innovative and complex beast because an earlier share buyback could not be repeated since the tax authorities refused to give it advance clearance. There was no guarantee this new scheme would not fall foul of the tax laws either, even if a couple of barristers had given their expensive opinion that it would not.

Whatever decision the Revenue comes to, the whole hole could well be closed in next month's Budget. The City pension funds will hate this, but their share of public sympathy is limited. What is curious is that the Labour Party, in all its

ranting about fat cats and corporate greed, should not have latched on to this one before the Chancellor did.

#### SE compromise for all seasons

DID Michael Lawrence fall on his sword in vain? The former Stock Exchange chief executive was fired at the start of the year for a number of reasons, but one had to do with the implacable opposition of the old guard, those market-makers who now dominate the City, to his plans for order-driven trading.

Now the Stock Exchange has produced a document that appears neatly to reconcile the interests of the consumer, the active investor, with those market-makers. Such a compromise, his detractors say, might have been more difficult had the abrasive Mr Lawrence still been in charge. Whatever. The technicalities need not concern us, but as from some time late next year an electronic bulletin board, or order book, will log all reasonably sized trades of FT-SE

100 companies that dealers want to make. This would largely, but not entirely, replace the present system of matched bargains conducted in private between consenting parties.

There is every possibility this will be extended further, to take in the next 150 stocks by size, for example. It will mean the price of such stocks will be much clearer, narrowing the spread between buy and sell. Retail investors will be largely unaffected unless they are dealing in size. But market-makers will still be able to trade off-market, using their own capital and taking sizeable positions in the market — and risks. Such deals will be logged on the order book in an as yet undefined way to allow them some privacy.

#### Payoff line

THE news from Japan will lift the spirits of every down-trodden City worker worried about being downsized. An employee of Prudential Securities of the US reacted to being fired during cutbacks in Tokyo by embedding \$20 million — it sounds even better in yen, Y2.2 billion — in cash and shares. The broker only admitted the loss when it all came out in the financial press.

## Benchmark lands £113m London property portfolio

BY CARL MORTISHED

**BENCHMARK GROUP**, a shell property company with a market worth of only £3 million, is to be transformed into a business worth £100 million investing in real estate in the West End.

The company, whose shares were suspended yesterday, is acquiring London Capital Holdings, a portfolio of 14 central London properties, from Friends Provident for £113 million. The deal is being put together with the support of Hong Leong, a Malaysian conglomerate which is a leading shareholder in Benchmark.

The purchase of London Capital is a coup for Nigel Kempner, managing director of Benchmark, who is the former head of Ransdowth Trust, which originally put together the London Capital portfolio. The deal brings back under his control major West End properties such as the

Derry and Toms building on Kensington High Street, as well as properties on Sackville Street and Sloane Street.

Mr Kempner sold Ransdowth Trust to an American investment group led by JMB Realty for £250 million at the top of the property boom in 1989. The company later collapsed with heavy debts. The London Capital portfolio was taken over by CitiBank and subsequently sold on to Friends Provident.

Mr Kempner said he had joined forces with the Hong Leong group to create a substantial central London property group with the objective of creating a portfolio worth £500 million within five years.

The properties generate rents of £8.9 million and include a retail and office development opportunity at Bishopsgate in the City. Mr Kempner said the rental income would improve on the

letting of vacant space. The refinancing will leave Benchmark 39 per cent geared, but the company intends to gear up with further acquisitions.

The purchase is being financed with the issue of 41 million new shares to Friends Provident at 160p after a capital reorganization. In turn, the insurer is selling on 20 million shares at the same price to First Capital Corporation, a company in which Hong Leong has an interest. A further £25.9 million of the purchase price is being raised in a placing and open offer of 17 million shares, also at 160p.

After the deal, the company will be 35 per cent controlled by Friends Provident and 35 per cent controlled by companies related to Hong Leong Group. David Newbigging, deputy chairman of Friends Provident, is joining the Benchmark board, while Quek Leng Chan, head of Hong Leong, remains as chairman.

### Hamleys new head quits early

BY KEITH ROGERS

**GEOFF CULLINAN**, who was brought in as chief executive of Hamleys, the toy group, to spearhead its strategic development, has quit after seven months in the job.

The announcement came as Hamleys unveiled an 18 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2 million for the six months to July 27, on turnover up 4 per cent to £11.4 million. Earnings per share increased by 12 per cent to 5.7p, while the interim dividend, due in the second half of November, rose from 2.7p to 3p per share.

Mr Cullinan is leaving "to pursue his other business interests". He joined Hamleys after a lengthy career in consultancy. Howard Dyer, chairman, said: "It wasn't quite right for him or for us. He was a consultant — I think we need a retailer."

The group has expanded this year, opening a shop at Singapore Airport last month and granting Saudi Arabian franchises.

Mr Dyer said the company has a growing cash balance of £6.1 million and would consider a share buyback or special dividend in 18 months if it had not invested elsewhere.

Howard Dyer says Hamleys needs a retailer as chief executive

## Reuters payout plan still lacks Revenue approval

**REUTERS**, the financial information company, is pressing ahead with plans to return £613 million to shareholders despite not having received clearance from the Inland Revenue for British shareholders (George Sivell writes). Yesterday, Reuters said that shareholders need to check their own

tax position. The creation of the special dividend shares is subject to shareholder approval at a special meeting next Wednesday. If approved, the shares will start trading on October 10. The Inland Revenue said yesterday that special dividends were "an area under close consideration".

The company sought advice from two leading counsels on tax matters before announcing its plans.

Reuters plans to pay £613 million back to shareholders over three years by creating special dividend shares. Each share would pay net dividends totalling 750p over the three years.

Shareholders are to be offered one new special dividend share and 19 new ordinary shares for each 20 ordinary shares held. When the scheme was announced, Reuters shares were at 750p; yesterday they rose 25p to 750p.

Pennington, page 25

In 1995, LG's annual sales grew 40% to over US\$64 billion.



It's nice to meet you.

It's Matt Ryan's job to listen.

As a Senior Designer at LG Electronics Design-Tech, Matt must intimately understand the different aesthetics of each European country. And then translate that understanding into intelligently designed TVs, VCRs, microwaves and other products. (Matt and his colleagues even helped design their company's Red Oak House headquarters.)

At LG, we listen a lot to our customers. We think that habit explains why we're leaders in advanced applications like thin-film transistor liquid crystal displays and high-definition TV.

We're active in many other business areas too, including DRAM memory chips, pharmaceuticals, and satellite communications.

And the same dedication and customer focus Matt Ryan and his fellow designers bring to their work, our 126,000 other employees bring to our other areas of expertise.

Now, how can we help you?



<http://www.lg.co.kr>

## Inspirations warning costly

BY MARIANNE CURPHET

A PROFIT warning by Inspirations, the tour operator, wiped more than a third of the value of its shares yesterday, sending them falling 47p to a low of 86.2p.

The company said it had been hit by "substantial one-off costs" relating to its airline subsidiary, Caledonian Airways, and would only break even in the year to September 30. The summer season for holiday companies had been far better than expected and the City had anticipated a £7.7 million year-end profit. The company said the problem related to its aircraft maintenance schedule but was unable to say exactly what the final cost would be.

Inspirations bought Caledonian from British

Airways in 1994. Inspirations claims it was forced to lease other aircraft over the peak summer season because its engineering contractor failed to service the fleet on time. The company added that it planned to offer a final dividend of 2.72p a share, making a total for the year of 3.5p, unchanged from the previous year.

Inspirations' larger tour operating rivals, Airtours and First Choice, have not been affected by such problems. Both have cut capacity after a disastrous summer season last year. Wayne Sanderson, leisure analyst with Merrill Lynch, said Airtours had avoided having to introduce heavy discounting at the end of the season to shift unsold holidays.

STOCK MARKET



CLARE STEWART

## Index hovers at 4,000 as profit-takers move in

AFTER the excitement of breaking the 4,000 level on Wednesday, the FTSE 100 paused for breath yesterday.

Profit-taking in morning trading knocked the market 20 points lower, to 3,994.6, but the continuing strength of demand topped up by some flurries of takeover speculation, a stronger gilts market and weaker than expected factory order data from the US, helped to bolster prices.

By the close of the FTSE 100 had edged back to close at 4,000 exactly, a fall of 15.1 points on the day, during which nearly 777 million shares changed hands.

Imperial Tobacco, the newly demerged division of Hanson, continued to defy expectations as bid speculation pushed its shares higher. The much discussed dawn raid from rival BAT failed to materialise, but Imperial shares rose to 429p fuelled by buying interest from the US. They then slipped back to close at 417p, up 13p. Hanson dipped a penny to 901p.

The merger of the cross-Channel ferry businesses of rivals Stena and P&O in a move to increase competition with Eurotunnel was given a warm reception. Shares in P&O cruised ahead 20p to 645p on better profit expectations for the year.

Interest in British Gas shares dimmed after the group took its dispute with the regulator to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The shares slid 6p lower to 193p as analysts predicted several more months of uncertainty for them awaiting the MMC's deliberations.

BT ended 21p lower at 260p after announcing a revision of certain prices in line with Ofcom's requests.

Shares in National Grid held steady despite hefty volumes in the stock after the electricity industry regulator Offer published its pricing recommendations. The proposed 20 per cent cut in National Grid's transmission charge in the year to March 1998 provided no unexpected shocks and the shares ended 1p lower, at 78p.

Rolls-Royce, the Aero engine group, made further progress, adding 3p to 257p after more positive City comment.

Enterprise Oil continued its strong run in early trading, moving up to 399p before sliding back to close at 374.1p.



No break for Inspirations, the holiday group, which lost 48p

up 3p. Profit-taking knocked shares in BP 8p lower to 110.5p, while Perpetual added 70p to 2342.1p. Confirmation of bid talks fuelled a 45 per cent rise in the shares of New Guernsey Securities, which closed at 20p.

Inspirations, the package holiday group, was also left on the beach after a gloomy trading update warned shareholders that a number of one-

SBC Warburg, rose 24.1p to 110.5p, while Perpetual added 70p to 2342.1p. Confirmation of bid talks fuelled a 45 per cent rise in the shares of New Guernsey Securities, which closed at 20p.

Inspirations, the package holiday group, was also left on the beach after a gloomy trading update warned shareholders that a number of one-

Rank Organisation saw its shares jump 14.5p to 441p after announcing plans to team up with Donald Trump, the US property tycoon. Rank is to open a Hard Rock Cafe at Mr Trump's Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, the 61st in the chain.

digested a new report on the sector. Safeway moved up 4p to 340p in response, while Sainsbury dipped 11p to 367p. Kwik Save fell back 10p to 317p as recent bid hopes appeared to fade.

The market's recent strength helped a number of fund managers to make progress. Mercury Asset Management, boosted by a "buy" recommendation from

off costs will mean a break-even result for the year to September 30. Last year, it made pre-tax profits of £7.7 million. Shares in the group sank 45p to 86.1p, marking a low point for a year.

Virtually, the leisure and technology group, put a brave face on increased losses of £3.8 million at the half year. Despite a brighter picture on future growth its shares fell

By the close of the December series of the long gilt had moved to £109 29/32, a net drop of 1p on the day. The volume of gilt contracts reached 11,300. In shorts, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended £12 lower at £104 41/42, while in longs the Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down £2 at £101 22/23.

**GILT-EDGED:** Strong early morning demand sent gilts to a peak of £110 29/32 before a bout of profit-taking and caution ahead of further US economic data due today took the market back down.

By the close, the December series of the long gilt had moved to £109 29/32, a net drop of 1p on the day. The volume of gilt contracts reached 11,300. In shorts, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended £12 lower at £104 41/42, while in longs the Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down £2 at £101 22/23.

**NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street drifted lower in the face of profit-taking and caution ahead of September's payroll report out today. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 12.30 points lower at 5,921.67.

**P&O:** Strong gains in early trading, adding 3p to 257p after more positive City comment.

Enterprise Oil continued its strong run in early trading, moving up to 399p before sliding back to close at 374.1p.

**DATA:** Datastream

**FULL STEAM AHEAD**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

**CLOSE**

**DATASTREAM**

**FT-SE 100 Index (rebased)**

**P&O share price**

**Source: Datastream**

**CLOSED**

**OPEN**

**LOW**

**HIGH**

THE  
TIMESCITY  
DIARYTaxing times  
for Barclays

A DIRECTOR at Barclays Bank will appear at an industrial tribunal next week to appeal against dismissal. Michael Kerridge, who is a director of its Barclays property subsidiaries, was forced to leave his post as deputy tax director in November last year, after he was accused of "misconduct" and "incompetence" at work.

Mr Kerridge, who is represented by Fox Williams, the City law firm, joined Barclays on December 31, 1990 to set up its property tax function at Westward Business Park in Coventry. Before that he was an accountant at Coopers & Lybrand. The allegations directed at Mr Kerridge, who is in his mid-forties, are said to be about "the right way of handling tax issues".

## Esprit de core

IN THE wake of Archie Norman, the new chief executive of Asda is making his mark with apples. All in Leighton is leading the supermarket chain in its battle against EU regulations that make it illegal to sell apples less than 55mm in diameter. In defiance of the small, but perfectly rounded Cox Leighton has ordered £11,000 worth of apples, that's 29,400lb, to be given away this Saturday to hungry children who visit any of Asda's 200 stores. Better than an uncurly cucumber.

## Board switch

THEY are changing jobs at Town and Country, the Ipswich insurance company, where Theodore Agnew, the corduroy-clad managing director, is taking over the switchboard for the day. In a bid to improve customer relations, Agnew and Richard Mehmed, one of the directors, will be answering calls while the lady norman, on the switchboard heads off to discuss strategy in sales and marketing. Agnew's seat will remain vacant in his absence, however, as there is no one quite of his weight to take over at the helm.



CITY slickers wondering whether to spend their Christmas bonuses or not could take a look at Harrods' seasonal catalogue. Undoubtedly, their eyes will alight upon the exquisite hand-embroidered tablecloths on offer. In fine white organza bordered with pure linen, the tablecloths come in Swatow embroidery from the Kwangtung region of China — a procedure that takes two years. No wonder then that the 12-seater tablecloths are priced at £12,000 each.

## Brief talk

SERIOUS Fraud Office beware, it looks like those hotshot lawyers acting on behalf of Peter "Gherkin" Young have something exciting up their sleeves. Monty Raphael, a senior partner at Peters & Peters, who also represented Robert Miller of Dundas fame, is speaking at a conference at the Unit for the Study of White Collar Crime — part of the Liverpool Business School. Mr Raphael's chosen topic is "Compliance and how it can assist in successful criminal prosecution".

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW BY ANATOLE KALETSKY



## Club Med should remain a holiday destination

Germans are not keen on allowing Italy and Spain to join EMU

**C**an they be serious? Do Italy and Spain really expect to become founder members of the single currency zone? To judge by the maniacal behaviour of world financial markets, there is no longer the shadow of a doubt. I reported in this column two weeks ago that EMU was now a "done deal" for Germany, France and the other German-dominated "core" countries of northern Europe. But it never occurred to me that the momentum of European integration was such that it would only take ten days for Spain, Italy and Portugal to graduate to this same Teutonic core. That, however, what financial markets seem to believe.

Italian bonds have jumped by eight full points in the past three weeks, with almost half this movement occurring in the past five days, in the sudden certainty that Italy will be in the first wave of countries to join the European monetary union. To put that perspective, the entire annual movement of the US bond market last year, Spanish bonds have moved even faster than Italy's.

The question now is whether this sudden confidence about EMU will be followed by an equally spectacular collapse, perhaps even comparable to the explosion of the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992, an event which was also triggered in Italy and Spain.

Such a market debacle seems possible — though not yet by any means likely — because a huge gap seems to have opened between market perceptions and political and economic realities. Many investors seem suddenly to believe that the Club Med countries (as Italy and Spain are affectionately known in the markets) can seriously expect to be admitted in the first round of EMU.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The idea of giving up the mark is unpopular in Germany, but as the fate of EMU will affect the German political system, Herr Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German electoral politics. Helmut Kohl will face re-election in late 1998, about six months after the decision on which countries will join EMU. If he admits Italy, he will risk losing the election.

The first and most important reason why Italy must be excluded from the first wave of EMU is German

# Head of Sony Pictures quits disaster-prone Hollywood studio

FROM RICHARD THOMSON  
IN NEW YORK

ALAN LEVINE has resigned as head of Sony Picture Entertainments in a move that signals the Japanese electronic company's determination to overcome the problems that have dogged the Hollywood film studio for seven years. He looks likely to be succeeded by John Calley, the president of United Artists.

Mr Levine, a former entertainment lawyer who had never run a company before his Sony appointment, was the last of the senior executives from the original disaster-prone management.

Under Peter Guber, Sony Picture Entertainments, which includes the Columbia Tristar studios, became famous for its profligacy and a string of film flops that led to losses of \$3.2 billion on the entertainment operation in 1994. When

Mr Guber departed in 1994 with a \$200 million payoff, Mr Levine took over. Although he successfully cut costs he never demonstrated a flair for picking hit films, and turned out expensive duds, including *The Fan*, with Robert DeNiro, *Multiplicity* and *Cable Guy*, whose star, Jim Carrey, was paid \$20 million. He also presided over management upheavals, including the sacking two weeks ago of Mark Canton, head of Columbia Tristar.

Mr Levine's resignation, which was expected, shows the determination of Nobuyuki Idei, who became head of Sony Corporation last year, to get the Hollywood operation under control. Last year he sacked Micky Schulhoff, the high-spending head of Sony's entire US operations, and has since worked hard to revamp the management team of the Hollywood studios.

He is believed to be considering

whether it is worth maintaining the troublesome investment, which Sony bought for \$3.4 billion in 1989. He is understood to have held talks with Michael Eisner of Disney, among others. Sony originally bought Columbia Tristar to complement its electronic hardware, such as televisions and VCRs, with entertainment "software". Over the last few years, that philosophy has worn very thin at Sony.

However, if the appointment Mr Calley, 65, is confirmed it may represent a final attempt to turn the studios around. He has produced several hits, including *Postcards from the Edge*, *Remains of the Day*, *Goldeneye* (which revived the James Bond franchise) and *The Bridge*, starring Robin Williams, and has good relationships with directors, including Mike Nichols, Sydney Pollack, Stanley Kubrick and John Boorman.

## Littlewoods' sales slip under pressure from Lottery rival

BY CLARE STEWART

THE National Lottery continues to squeeze Littlewoods, with the football pools and retail group reporting a further fall in its rival leisure business in the first half.

Sales in Littlewood's leisure business fell by 29 per cent, to £345 million, while overall group sales dipped below the £1 billion level to £995 million, down by 5 per cent.

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits for Littlewoods, which is owned by the Moores family, showed a 24 per cent fall, to £12.5 million, although 1995's results were boosted by a one-off property profit of £10.4m.

## Hopkinsons' first profit since 1994

BY FRASER NELSON

HOPKINSONS, the engineering products group, returned to the black in the last six months to June 30, after falling raw material prices and tighter cost controls produced taxable profits of £41,000, against a loss of £83,000 last time.

The company, which last recorded a profit in 1994, attributed the turnaround to the reforms in its core abrasives division, now strengthened by three acquisitions. Their contribution offset a 5 per cent slide in underlying sales to leave a divisional

operating profit of £566,000, 50 per cent more than last time. Overall, operating profit jumped from £12,000 to £692,000 after the disposal of its loss-making Gas Controls division.

On an underlying basis, sales were £51.2 million (£49.9 million) and earnings 0.39p per share (1.23p loss). A maintained interim dividend of 0.5p will be paid on November 29.

At one stage Hopkinsons' shares rose 2p to 32p yesterday, before falling back to close at 28p.

Stripping this out the operating result for the first half shows a more encouraging picture, with profits rising 130 per cent, to £13.6 million. James Ross, the chairman, said that these results "clearly demonstrate the benefits of the enormous efforts undertaken to improve operating efficiency and business performance across the group". Since the Lottery began, Littlewoods has reduced staff numbers from 4,000 to around 1,500.

The home shopping to high street retailing businesses lifted sales by 7 per cent, to £748 million, and moved back into

the black with an operating profit of £4.1 million, reversing last year's loss of £4.1 million. The biggest improvements were seen in the home shopping division where sales rose by 4.5 per cent and operating profits increased by 50 per cent, to £16.5 million.

In spite of flat sales in its traditional home shopping business, Mr Ross said, that the improvement reflected the impact of the new direct-ordering index Extra operation. The first half also saw an improving picture in its 130-strong chain of Littlewoods stores where like-for-like sales rose by 6.4 per cent.

Littlewoods is spending around £12 million this year on refurbishing its stores and opening four more, and is investing in the further development of its own ladieswear to home furnishings Berkertex brand.

In spite of the 29 per cent fall in sales in the leisure division, cost-cutting helped to support profits, which improved 6 per cent to £11.5 million.

Pools takings at the beginning of the football season have shown an encouraging increase, Mr Ross said, while its weekly competition based on half time scores is also performing well.

With the stronger second half to come the outlook is encouraging, he said. Third quarter retail sales are up 8 per cent and the group has increased its market share.

The group expects operating profits for the 12 months to be significantly ahead of last year's £77.7 million.



NEWCASTLE UNITED Football Club is to step up its appeal to businessmen in the North East by offering them a chance to meet at St James's Park. The Newcastle United Business Club, officially launched yesterday, features all business facilities, including an executive boardroom, fax machines and computers, and executive boxes overlooking the pitch. Sir John Hall, chairman, sees the club as a platform for generating new commercial ventures in the region. Pictured at the launch are Freddie Fletcher, left, chief executive of Newcastle United, and John Bridge, chief executive of the Northern Development Corporation

## Financial sector optimism increases again

BY NOEL FUNG

OPTIMISM in financial services surged sharply in the third quarter, with life insurers and building societies enjoying the largest rise in business, but share traders expect worse times ahead.

The quarterly financial services survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and Coopers & Lybrand, the chartered accountants, issued yesterday reported the third consecutive quarter of sharply rising business optimism.

However, not all financial firms shared this optimism. Security trading reported a fall in confidence compared with three months ago. Security traders, and general insurers, experienced falling business volume in the third quarter.

Pat Newberry, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand, attributed the traders' gloom to expectations of higher interest rates and a belief that stock markets may have peaked.

The survey further pointed out that these traders, along with venture capitalists, did not expect business to increase in the fourth quarter.

Their pessimism was in contrast to life insurers, finance houses and building societies, which displayed soaring confidence and reported modest growth in business volume in the third quarter. Riding on strong recovery in consumer spending, these industries expect better times in the final quarter.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, said: "The recovery of consumer confidence is feeding through to the financial sector."

Other confidence-boosting factors included the rebound

in the domestic property market and the gradual rebuilding of the life insurance industry's tarnished image.

Overall profitability in the financial sector picked up more strongly than expected and a similar rise is expected in the last quarter.

Healthy profit growth stemmed partly from rationalisation, particularly among insurance brokers, general insurers and building societies, which reported the largest fall in employment in the third quarter.

Financial firms identified the level of demand as the biggest constraint on business in the coming year, rather than domestic competition, as in previous quarters.

## Electronics Boutique in better shape

THE turnaround at Electronics Boutique was underlined yesterday when the electronics products retailer reported that its loss for the half year to June 30 fell by half, to £3.26 million, on turnover of £24.3 million, up 33 per cent. The company said that 60 stores will be refurbished by mid-October and three new stores will be opened by Christmas, raising the total to 115. Sales are improving because of the popularity of new video games and the growth in personal computer ownership. The shares rose 14p to 20p.

## PIA inquiry postpones DBS float

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

DBS Financial Management, the UK's biggest independent financial adviser, has shelved its plans for flotation on the stock market because it is being investigated by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), its regulator.

The investigation follows allegations against the board made by Kenneth Stead, DBS's former director of compliance. Ken Davy, DBS chairman, who is also on the board of PIA, said: "The whole matter started a few weeks ago. It is absolutely right and proper that the PIA carries out its own investigation. It would

be quite ridiculous to issue a prospectus for the float until that investigation has been completed."

DBS commissioned a leading firm of solicitors to look into the allegations made by Mr Stead. The company claims that the most serious charges have not been substantiated. Mr Stead, who was with DBS for seven years, has now resigned at the board's request.

Mr Davy claims that the findings of the report have no financial bearing on its plans for a full listing, but added that his company had reviewed a number of its

procedures since Mr Stead's allegations. He added: "We hope that this announcement puts everything in perspective. It does not affect anything we have said previously about the company."

The company is already listed on AIM and planned to be the first firm to move from AIM to a full quote at the end of last month. The price of shares fell around 10 per cent from 48p on the news that the float was to be postponed. Last year, when the company came to market, shares were trading at 145p. There are 2,500 small firms under the DBS umbrella.

## NU helpline besieged by concerned customers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

NORWICH UNION'S helpline was swamped with more than 70,000 calls yesterday in response to the mutual life insurer's plans to float on the stock market.

Three million of a total five million NU policyholders stand to gain from a windfall bonanza of free shares, worth an average £500 to each policyholder. Those with policies which mature before an extraordinary meeting is held next spring will benefit from a 3 per cent bonus payment on the maturity value of his or her policy.

Most of the queries were over the size of the bonus, but NU is not giving details of individual payouts until nearer the flotation date. The value of the share distribution will depend on market conditions at that time.

Other callers were concerned that they would lose out on their entitlement because they were not the first-named person on an endowment or life policy. Like other mutuals which decided to float, NU has made a strict rule of only paying shares to the first-named on documents.

NU appears to have learnt from the mistakes of other companies which decided to demutualise. By ensuring a very wide range of policyholders will benefit from the payout, NU has side-stepped a policyholder revolt.

## CANADIAN OVERSEAS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES LIMITED

(incorporated under the laws of Canada)

### EARNINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

Audited results for the year to 30th June 1996

(all funds expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars except for the common share data)

	1995/96 (CS5000)	1994/95 (CS5000)
Sales	CS180,645	CS159,912
Earnings from Operations	6,648	9,505
Less: Minority Interest	286	434
	6,362	9,071
Investment Income	8,100	9,129
Gain on Sale of Marketable Securities	7,857	13,478
Share in net earnings of affiliated companies subject to significant influence	14,402	2,489
Gain on sale of company subject to significant influence	1,735	-
Foreign Currency Gains	210	544
Earnings before taxation	38,666	34,711
Taxation	3,134	2,895
Net Earnings	CS35,532	CS31,816
Earnings per Common Share	CS2.02	CS1.81

The Directors today have declared a regular dividend on the 17,578,125 Common Shares N.P.V. payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on 15th November 1995 at the rate of 70 cents (Canadian) per share. The comparative figure for 1995 was 65 cents per share. The payment date for this dividend is 6th December 1995.

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1996 together with the Notice of the Thirty Fifth Annual Meeting will be posted to Shareholders on the 18th October 1996 with the usual press announcement appearing the same day. The Thirty Fifth Annual Meeting will be held on 3rd December 1996. Full details will be circulated with the Notice of the Meeting.

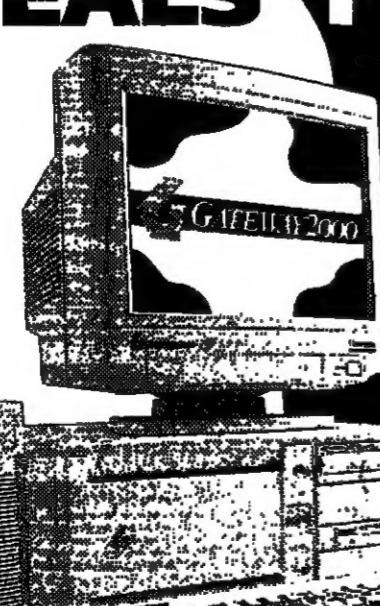
3rd October 1996

Suite 1212, Brunswick Square, German Street, Saint John, New Brunswick, CANADA E2L 4V1.

By Order of the Board,  
M. C. Johnston, Q.C.  
Director and Secretary.

## STAR PERFORMER STEALS THE SHOW

intel®  
pentium®



### P5-120 MULTIMEDIA

- Intel® 120MHz Pentium® Processor
- 16MB SDRAM
- 256KB Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Toshiba® Eight Speed CD-ROM
- Western Digital® 2GB EIDE Hard Drive
- Creative Labs® Vibra Sound Card and Altec Lansing® ACSII Speakers
- 2MB 64 Bit Graphics Accelerator
- 15" Viztron® Colour Monitor
- Desktop Mini Tower Case
- Windows® 95 105 KB Keyboard & Mouse
- Microsoft® Windows 95
- MS Generations Software Bundle
- Games Bundle
- MS Encarta® '96 (US version)
- SuperScap Virtual Reality Software
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£1099 (£1325.40 inc VAT and Delivery.)

**GATEWAY 2000**  
"You're not a friend in the business."

0 8 0 0 7 4 2 0 0 0  
<http://www.uk.g2k.com>

Showroom hours of business:  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday  
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

Start reaching for the telephone.

© 1996 GATEWAY 2000 Inc.